



Shares tumble on fears of higher base rates

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The sliding pound is threatening a rise in interest rates and could seriously damage the Government's economic strategy...

Pressure on British interest rates has been building up for several days and intensified on Wednesday...

Leading article, page 11 Kenneth Fleet, page 15 Stock market report, page 17

The expectation is that, while bank base rates are now well out of line with money market rates, the high street banks will await the reaction to next Tuesday's money supply figures before deciding on any change...

The pound is expected to rise in the first two trading days of 1985, the index has fallen by 23.6 points. The unemployment figures for December, which showed a fall of 1,189 to 3,219,006...

Israelis mastermind dramatic airlift from Ethiopia Modern exodus of the lost tribe

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem

Israel has been masterminding a secret airlift from drought-stricken Africa in the last two months which officials claim has brought thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel...

Until yesterday, strict military censorship prevented publication of details about the dramatic and harrowing airlift...

Mr Moshe Gilboz, a senior official of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, hinted last night that the secret rescue operation was not yet over...

There has been repeated diplomatic speculation that the airlift has been operated from Sudan - where thousands of stricken Ethiopians were known to be living in makeshift camps...



Taste of plenty: A young Falasha samples her first meal in a Jerusalem hospital.

Although exact figures have not been provided, the news blackout surrounding the operation was broken after Mr Yehuda Dominitz, chief of the Jewish agency's immigration department...

It is understood that the Ethiopian Jews, including hundreds of sickly children, one of whom was found on arrival to weigh only 10lb 10oz at the age of four...

At the same time, the Israeli staff to communicate. One of the doctors involved in the emergency programme at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek hospital...

In the hospital Mr Tadoka Getahun, a 40-year-old refugee ridden with malaria, said through an interpreter: "There are many cultural differences. They know it is not permitted to cook on the sabbath...

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Khomeini's heroes Iran remembers her martyrs with a fountain of blood Step to fame A 19-year-old star emerges from Nureyev's new Swan Lake in Paris The best afloat What's what on the water this year in The Times Boat Show review Cup chasers Preview of FA Cup third round ties and England's rugby international against Romania

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr Richard Dawson who lives in Pudding, Cheshire. Portfolio list, page 14 how to play, information service, back page.

Blockade seamen fight police

Police and seamen fought a pitched battle in Boulogne last night on the fourth day of a French ferry strike. There were reduced sailings from British ports to Boulogne but Calais, Dieppe and Dunkirk remained unblocked by French seamen. They are seeking guarantees of job security. Ferry sailings, information service, back page.

Rock opening

Britain and Spain have agreed that limit frontier restrictions on Gibraltar will be lifted on February 28, the same day as the two countries open talks in Geneva.

Snow in North

More snow fell in the North and East of England last night as temperatures fell to as low as -6°C and a cold northerly airstream settled over the country. Forecast, back page.

Deaver to quit

Mr Michael Deaver, deputy White House chief of staff and one of President Reagan's closest aides, will resign soon.

On this day

Our series of news reports reprinted from The Times of the past 200 years continues today with an account of Winston Churchill's appearance at the Sidney Street steps taken from the issue of January 4, 1911. Page 11 The City in 1785, page 17

Monday's Times

On Monday The Times will be accompanied by a 168-page colour magazine celebrating the Queen's Bicentenary. There will be exceptional demand for this issue. To avoid disappointment regular readers should order their newspapers without delay.

Leader page 11: Letters: On housing, from Mr Ian Gow, and Mr Jeff Rooker. MP: crowded classes, from Mrs Sally Mulford. Leading articles: The pound; Cabinet government; drink-drive campaign. Features, pages 8-10: The Geneva arms control agenda; union ballots that could hit Labour and Tories; the truth about New York Spectrum; pirate radio. Friday: Page: Young economists. Obituaries, page 12: Mr Noel Blackiston, Sir Basil Bartlett.

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Apps, Architecture, Arts, E.g. 1114-17, Court, Crossword, Diary, Law Report, Science, Snow reports, Sport, TV & Radio, Theatres, etc., Universities, Weather, etc.

Norwegians identify stray Soviet missile

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Norwegian Air Force yesterday identified the Russian missile which violated Norwegian and Finnish airspace last week as an SS-N-3 Shaddock type of the Russian cruise missile with a range of 230 miles.

Hotel group pays £10m for Crown Agents' HQ

By Judith Huntley

The Crown Agents for Overseas Governments and Administrations have sold their London headquarters at 4 Millbank to Raleigh Enterprises, an American hotel operator, for nearly £10 million.

£60 licence 'will kill BBC growth plan'

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The BBC will lose all its development plans, including an expansion of daytime television, a new Broadcasting House, and 10 proposed local radio stations, if its colour television licence fee demand is trimmed from £65 to £60.

NF row could close poly, students warned

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Students at North London Polytechnic will be warned next week that their college may be closed if Mr Patrick Harrington, a member of the National Front, is not able to attend his lectures next Friday.

Swiss envoy kidnapped by Beirut gunmen

Beirut - For the first time in nine years of war, the Swiss became a target for Beirut's gunmen yesterday when four armed men kidnapped the charge d'affaires, Mr Eric Wuhry, by forcing his car off the coastal road (Robert Fisk writes).

Wilson warning to Labour as Kinnock appeals to activists

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

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1954 archives reveal radiation ignorance

By David Walker

Just before Britain tested its first atomic bomb, the Government decided that military personnel could endure a level of radiation 50 times greater than now considered acceptable.

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Advertisement for Thistle Hotels featuring a Jaguar XJS HE car and the text 'Do you have the key?'. Includes details about the Thistle Key promotion and contact information for Thistle Hotels.

Australian judge criticizes 'British non-cooperation' over A-tests royal inquiry

By Pat Healy

The judge presiding over the Australian royal commission investigating the safety of the British nuclear tests in Australia in the 1950s criticized the British Government for excessive secrecy and lack of co-operation with the commission's work its London hearings opened yesterday.

Mr Justice James McClelland said assurances of full British co-operation had not been matched by the conduct of the Government.

The British Government decided only recently to be represented before the Australian royal commission, and that decision appeared to have been taken reluctantly after the commission had publicly accused the British Government of dragging its feet.

"The nuclear tests were carried out by the British, and the evidence which had already been adduced suggests to us that they told the Australian authorities virtually nothing about what they were doing in Australia during the tests", the Australian judge said.

"Since the British know so much more than we do about what they were about in our country at that time, co-operation now, if it is to mean anything, involves not simply telling us that we are free to delve into the mountain of

documents which are in British hands, but positive assistance in bringing to light anything of relevance which those documents may disclose."

Secrecy in the national interest had always been a convenient alibi for failure to disclose, Mr Justice McClelland said. But it was hard to believe that Britain had any atomic secrets unknown to the great nuclear powers.

He also expressed astonishment that the British Government had insisted that the Australian Government must waive its right to prosecute people committing perjury as a condition of allowing the commission to sit in Britain.

Such limitations on the work of a royal commission set up by a friendly nation to inquire into what the British had done on Australian soil "sits uneasily with the offers of co-operation and disclosure already made".

Mr Robin Auld, QC, for the British Government, assured the commission that relevant documents would be produced, subject to the security interests and treaty obligations of the United Kingdom. The Government would also make available as potential witnesses key British personnel responsible for the tests.

Six British ex-servicemen gave evidence to the com-

mission yesterday. Mr Gordon Wilson, of Hull, said that Aborigines had been in the area of the tests in spite of assurances to the contrary by the British Government.

Mr Colin Campbell, of Stafford, told the commission that the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell had refused him a recommended whole body-scan, "on the grounds that the information might be used against the Government".

Mr Wilson was posted to the Maralinga range in South Australia when he was a Royal Engineers sapper. He told the commission that he regularly drove into the bush when he felt bored. He had met three male Aborigines more than once in the "yellow area" within a few miles of the blast zone.

Although his own job was erecting and repairing "danger" signs, Mr Wilson said there had been no real restriction on his movement and he had not felt any need to warn the Aborigines.

Mr Wilson was one of several ex-servicemen to state that there had been very little information on the dangers of radiation while they were in the Australian test areas.

The inquiry was adjourned until today.



Neil Kinnock meets miners on the picket lines in South Wales yesterday.

NCB confident of big return soon

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Senior National Coal Board officials are becoming increasingly confident that there will be a big return to work next week by striking miners after more than 600 men reported for work in the last two days.

The board is optimistic that there will be marked progress next week towards the point at which the number of working miners exceeds that of those on strike.

Pits in several coal board areas, notably Scotland and Yorkshire, are continuing their holiday break until the weekend and previously the board had said it would not be publishing return to work figures until the holidays were over.

The fact that yesterday the board released details of the return to work is another indication that officials believe there is a gathering momentum of miners wanting to end the strike. A board statement said that yesterday's "new faces" totalling 250 were in line with expectations and it believed miners would continue to return to work.

The number of pits producing at least some coal has risen to 71 out of a total of 174, with the addition of four pits in the North-east in the new year. The board also claimed record

attendances in Yorkshire at 13 pits where 3,106 men reported for work, 70 more than the previous highest attendance just before Christmas.

Some officials of the National Union of Mineworkers are suggesting privately that the main aim during the coming weeks is to prevent the number returning from reaching half the 188,000 workforce, which is seen as a critical psychological barrier. Mr Ian MacGregor, board chairman, has said that once that barrier has been breached he will regard the strike as effectively ended.

TUC leaders remain adamant that the return to work will not produce a conclusion to the strike, but there is little prospect of an early resumption of talks to find a negotiated settlement.

The board's pleasure at the record attendance in Yorkshire was marred by the failure of deputies at the Shireoak colliery to cross picket lines, preventing NUM men at the pit from beginning underground work leading to a resumption of coal production (Peter Davenport, writes).

The deputies turned back yesterday morning after being abused and threatened by up to 60 pickets at the pit gates.

Churches put pits plan to Thatcher

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Ten Welsh church leaders, including two Archbishops, have written to the Prime Minister urging her to set up an independent review body to settle the coal strike.

The Most Rev Derrick Childs, Anglican Archbishop of Wales, the Most Rev John Ward, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cardiff, and eight other leading churchmen in the principality warn Mrs Margaret Thatcher that divisions caused by the dispute could last for generations.

They say the independent body, composed of representatives of the union, the coal board, the Government and other interested bodies should examine the future of the industry in the context of a long-term energy policy not subject to the vagaries of an undisciplined free market.

According to the churchmen, the establishment of such an independent body would be supported by both the coal board and the union in South Wales.

Three striking miners, charged with murdering Mr David Wilkie, the taxi driver, who died when a concrete block hit his car as he was driving a miner to work, appeared before Merthyr Tydfil magistrates in

South Wales yesterday. All three were remanded in custody for seven days. Criminal proceedings are likely to begin on January 24.

Anthony Williams, aged 26, of Ty Coch, Rhymney, married with two children and a miner from Markham colliery, was arrested and charged with murder yesterday. An application on his behalf for bail was refused.

The other men, Russell Shankland, of Manest Street, Rhymney, and Reginald Hancock, of Rhymney Bridge, Rhymney, both aged 21, made no application for bail.

Mine rescue squads and working miners were fighting an underground fire yesterday at one of Scotland's showpiece pits.

One of the three main faces at Seafield colliery, Kirkcaldy, was seen to be "glowing red and smoking". A coal board spokesman said the £3 million face was "in imminent danger".

Disciplinary action has been taken against a senior, Derbyshire police officer after an allegation that fruit machines were illegally operated to keep picket line police amused while they were stationed in barracks at Chilwell, Nottinghamshire.

No action on cot death mother

A mother who claimed she killed her baby daughter 12 years ago said today that she had been ostracized by her family.

Earlier the Crown Office, which handles prosecutions in Scotland, said no action would be taken against Mrs Catherine Mitchell, aged 32, of Dundee, Tayside.

Mrs Mitchell stuck to her claim that she had suffocated her daughter Gillian, aged nine weeks. She added that her family had turned their backs on her "My Christmas cards and presents were returned unopened. It's just as if I don't exist. But I have done my crying over that."

Mrs Mitchell made her alleged confession in November during a dispute over the cause of cot deaths.

Yesterday she said: "I am relieved that I will not have to face a court trial. I have been terrified by the prospect of going to prison."

River pollution still untraced

The cause of a river pollution incident in North Wales which resulted in the contamination of water supplies to about two million people in Clwyd, Cheshire and Merseyside remains unknown.

Ferro (GB), a subsidiary of an American-owned multinational company was cleared of blame at Llangollen Magistrates' Court yesterday when the Welsh Water Authority offered no evidence on a charge alleging that a large quantity of the chemical, phenol, leaked from its plastics factory at Chirk, near Wrexham, into a tributary of the river Dee.

The company did however, plead guilty to two minor charges of polluting the tributary several days after the incident and was fined £1,000.

Party donations under review

A review of companies political donations has been set up by the Hansard Society and the Constitutional Reform Centre. It considers whether companies should obtain the agreement of shareholders before making payments. The Trade Union Act 1984 requires unions to ballot their members on political funds.

The review, to be chaired by Mr Edmund Dell, chairman of Channel Four Television, has been asked to suggest a code of practice for companies planning to contribute to one or more political parties.

Arson victims 'not harassed'

Detectives hunting an arsonist, who started a house fire in Tidesley, Greater Manchester, which killed Kelly Lindup, aged three, ruled out a campaign of harassment against her family.

Supintendent Arnold Beales, who is leading the murder inquiry, said yesterday: "From the information reported to the police and from what we have gleaned from this inquiry, I would not prescribe the problems of offences directed at this family as harassment or victimization."

Car rescue baby home soon

The baby rescued after being trapped under water in an overturned car should be fit to go home soon.

Katie Robinson, aged six months, was trapped with her parents, brother and grandfather in the car which landed on its roof in the village pond at Warton, near Pocklington, North Humberside two days ago. Yesterday York District Hospital said: "Both mother and child are progressing well and should be allowed home within two or three days."

Bristol dockers agree on deal

Bristol dockers agreed yesterday to a two-year pay and conditions deals designed to avoid industrial trouble.

In return for a 12 per cent pay increase spread over two years, the 609 registered dock workers have agreed to reforms in working practices to give the port more flexibility.

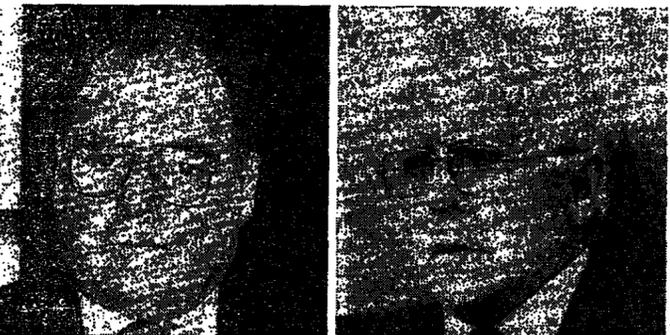
Boom in the sky

A loud window-rattling rumble heard widely in the north of England on Wednesday night was probably caused by an aircraft's sonic boom and not an earth tremor, a seismology expert said yesterday. At the British Geological Services global seismology unit at Edinburgh where instruments had not recorded any underground activity.

Correction

The opening ceremony for International Youth Year, referred to on Wednesday as taking place at Coventry Cathedral on January 16, has been cancelled. Other events outlined are to proceed as planned.

The Times overseas selling prices: America \$24, Australia \$18, Canada \$18, Europe £10, India \$18, Japan \$18, New Zealand \$18, Pakistan \$18, Singapore \$18, South Africa \$18, Switzerland \$18, Taiwan \$18, Thailand \$18, USA \$18, Yugoslavia \$18.



Mr Colin Campbell (left): Body-scan refused; and Mr Justice McClelland (Photographs: Bill Warhurst).

Competition on bus routes gets support

By Michael Baily, Transport Editor

The Government's proposed free-for-all in the bus industry should provide improved services to the public, the Welsh Consumer Council said yesterday. Opposition to the proposals came almost entirely from vested interests, it added.

While supporting the Government's proposals to abolish bus route licensing after 30 years of regulation, the council wants strong powers to ensure safety for passengers in a more competitive environment.

"The Welsh Consumer Council concludes that competition is in the best interests of consumers," Miss Katherine Hughes, its director, said. "But the Government must provide safeguards to allay the genuine fears that exist."

The council wants not only tough sanctions against unsafe buses, but also assurances that local authorities will have funds to go on subsidizing unprofitable but necessary services. And it wants county councils to retain some powers to co-ordi-

nate services in their area, a function Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Transport, believes will be performed by "the market".

In a survey conducted by the council it finds that most organizations with an interest in bus services object to particular consequences of the Government measure: lower safety levels and withdrawal of rural services rather than to the competition proposals themselves.

It shows that many objectors have an interest in preserving the present situation, either as operators or as trade unions. But there are also fears, especially about the possible loss of vital services.

"We agree that subsidy of rural services should be open through local authority grants, rather than concealed through cross-subsidies between services," the WCC says. "But the corollary is that local authorities should have the funds to keep essential services going."

Shake-up in Battersea consortium

There has been a shake-up in the consortium which won the contract from the Central Electricity Generating Board to develop Battersea power station site as an entertainment centre.

The new head of the consortium is Mr John Broome, owner of the Alton Towers leisure complex in Staffordshire, who has formed a new company, Battersea Leisure Ltd, to turn the site into a £40 million funfair and park.

He confirmed he had replaced Sir David Roche, chairman of a property development company, who originally headed the group, but would make no further comment.

He would make a full statement on the change before the end of the month.

Show plan for family of actor

The showbusiness friends of the late Ian Hendry are trying to organize a concert to raise money for his family. The plan was disclosed yesterday at his funeral in London by Mr Glyn Owen, the actor and a friend for 20 years.

Mr Hendry, aged 53, died almost penniless, in spite of appearing in more than 50 films and many television programmes. Four years ago he was declared bankrupt.

Mr Hendry's funeral service was as unconventional as his life. The musical theme from *The Lotus Eaters*, his most famous television series, was played at the start and finish of the ceremony at Golders Green Crematorium, north-west London.

Move to end secrecy by boards

By Tony Samstag

The right of water authorities to meet in secret would be abolished if a Bill published today becomes law.

The Water Authorities (Meetings) Bill, to be introduced into the Commons on February 1 by Mr Gerald Berhingham, Labour MP for St Helen's South is the latest attempt by the Campaign for Freedom of Information to guarantee by legislation the public's right to know about various aspects of government.

If the Bill becomes law, water authorities would again be subject to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, from which they were exempted by the Water Act 1983. That Act, according to the campaign, "was designed to reduce bureaucracy by eliminating the large numbers of local authority representatives which formerly made up a majority of water authority boards", replacing them with government appointees.

Public access to water authority meetings is essential, the campaign argues, because of the large amount of money spent about £2.8 billion last year, much of it raised from local water rates; the "enormous local impact" of water authority projects; and potential conflicts of interest, as when an authority responsible for preventing river pollution operates a sewage works.

The Water Authorities Association yesterday defended the present system, which it said was "working very well". Mr Len Hill, the chairman, said that in many cases media coverage of water authority affairs had increased since the system was introduced.

"Press conferences are invariably held after each board meeting when chairman and chief executives are available for questioning", he said. Together with the new consumer consultative committees, which meet in public, the system ensured that "customers and the media are kept informed of what we are doing and what we are planning to do".

The Campaign for Freedom of Information has drafted four Bills and is working of a fifth.

Students go on the beat

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Nearly 400 undergraduates tasted life on the beat and in a patrol car this week as part of a countrywide search for future police chiefs. They are on three-day vacation courses at 16 police training centres. One at Durham was cancelled because of manpower demands made by the miners' dispute.

The courses are part of an entry scheme which each year recruits about 600 graduates to the police service.

For the fortunate, the rewards can come quickly, with accelerated promotion to inspector. In London, they could be taking home £17,187 five or six years after joining the police, according to Home Office figures yesterday.

A graduate who successfully completes a special course at the Police Staff College, Bramshill, in Hampshire, could be earning £12,942 in London on promotion, plus extra allowances of £1,812 and a rent allowance of up to £2,433.

Students in London yesterday reckoned that money would

be an added bonus to what they clearly saw as a vocation, rather than a prime reason for joining.

The chances of being dealt with by a police officer with a degree are increasing. In 1978, when there were 1,777 graduates serving in the police, they formed no more than 1.11 per cent of the service. In 1983, that had risen to 3.24 per cent, or 4,176.

The police want more qualified senior officers, without creating an officer class, that is why everyone pounds the beat as a constable for the first two years.

One who wants to join is Jacqueline Edwards, aged 20, a theology student, who was going out yesterday in a Metropolitan Police patrol car. She is keen on the social work aspect of police work. "Theology makes you aware of people's outlooks not just one view," she said, "and gives you a degree of tolerance."

But students say that in dealing with pickets, police have to uphold law and order. If it was breached, something had to be done about it, Timothy

Stone, aged 22, a geography student said.

The undergraduates travel at their own expense, including one who went from Scotland to the Devon and Cornwall Police, where accommodation is provided for the course.

Out of 47 applications to the Devon and Cornwall force last year by those who sought to go on the special course at Bramshill, only six were accepted on the normal entry scheme. They had no guarantee of going to Bramshill. Only three took up the offer. No one was offered the extended interview which could have led to the special course.

Gradually, the attitude towards graduates in the police is changing. They are no longer "nine-day wonders".

Today the service attracts undergraduates such as Nicholas Avis, aged 22, who is studying computer science and cybernetics. His is the sort of background which could be useful to a service wedding new technology to traditional policing.

Romance blossoms again after 45 years

A Conservative MP yesterday married the childhood sweetheart he was first engaged to nearly half a century ago.

Sir Paul Hawkins, aged 72, MP for Norfolk South West, and Mrs Tina Daniels, a widow, were married at Little Ninden church in Hertfordshire 45 years after he first proposed. He was aged 29 when he first asked Tina to marry him but the ceremony was eventually called off, and the couple lost touch.

Both were subsequently married and after their first partners died the couple became engaged for the second time last autumn.

The guests at yesterday's ceremony included their children from the previous marriages. The couple will return to Sir Paul's home at Darnham Market, Norfolk, today.



MPs' attendance at committees has improved

By Anthony Bevias, Political Correspondent

The attendance record of MPs in Commons standing committees marginally improved in the last full session of Parliament which ended last autumn.

An analysis of committee work, carried out by *The Times*, shows that there was a 19 per cent absence rate of MPs called to serve in sessions of the standing committees sittings.

During the 1983-84 session 40 Bills were examined at a total of 424 committee sittings, in addition to sittings of the Scottish Grand Committee, the Welsh Grand Committee, the Northern Ireland Committee, the Standing Committees on Statutory Instruments, Second

Reading Committees and Standing Committees on European Community Documents.

In the last Parliament there was a standing committee absence rate of 22 per cent in 1980-81, compared with an absence rate of 17 per cent in 1983-84.

During the last session, the most remarkable attendance record was held by Mr Douglas Hogg, who recently retired from his post as a government whip after attending 84 standing committee sessions, a 100 per cent attendance record.

Other strong attenders were: Mr Gerald Birmingham, Labour St Helens South (79 sittings); Mr Kenneth Carlisle, Conservative,

Lincoln (78); Mr Gerald Malone, Conservative, Aberdeen South (74); Mr Michael Hirst, Conservative, Strathkelvin and Bearsden (69); Mr Patrick Nicholson, Conservative, Teignbridge (69); Mr Humphrey Malins, Conservative, Croydon North West (66); Mr Barry Henderson, Conservative, Fife North East (63); Mr David Maclean, Conservative, Penrith and the Border (61); Mr Stuart Bell, Labour, Middlesexburgh (59); Mr Robert Jones, Conservative, Hertfordshire West (59); Mr Roger Sims, Conservative, Chislehurst (59); Mr Edon Griffiths, Conservative, Bury St Edmunds (58); Mr Mark Fisher, Labour, Stoke-on-Trent, Central (57); Mr Marion Roe, Conservative, Braintree (57); Mr Warren Hawley, Conservative, The Wrekin (56); Mr Martin Brandon-

Bravo, Conservative, Nottingham South (55); Mr Simon Hughes, Liberal, Southward Bermondsey (53); Mrs Anna McCurley, Conservative, Renfrew West and Inverclyde (55); Mr James Craig, Labour, Marjhill (54); Mr Robin Corbett, Labour, Birmingham, Edingtoe (54); Mr John Wheeler, Conservative, Westminster North (54); Mr John Home Robertson, Labour, East Lothian (53); Mr Alexander Currie, Liberal, Montgomery (52); Mr Richard Ryder, Conservative, Mid Norfolk (52); Mr John Waples, Conservative, Lewisham West (51); Mr Neil Hamilton, Conservative, Telford (50); and Mr Timothy Wood, Conservative, Stevenage (50).

Return of Standing Committees for session 83-84 (Stationery Office, £4.30).

More US aid, page

Five leading holiday firms get low ratings in customer survey

Five of the main package holiday companies received lower than average ratings in a survey of 6,500 holidaymakers' experiences undertaken by the Consumers Association magazine, *Holiday Which?*

Cosmos, Global, Intasun, Olympic and Enterprise were much less likely to be recommended by those who had used them than most of the 33 tour operators reported upon in the survey. Only Air Tours, Carousel, Summer-plan and Budget, which has since gone bankrupt, received worse ratings.

Holiday Which? says that its survey disclosed serious shortcomings among package holiday companies. The most common complaint was about unexpected changes in flight time or accommodation arrangements after bookings had been confirmed. A fifth of respondents reported such alterations to their plans, and

among those who booked with Cosmos, Air Tours and Summer-plan the proportion rose to more than a third.

Changes to departure times were often by more than four hours and sometimes a day, and well over one respondent in twenty had been switched to different accommodation from that that they had booked. "Clearly overbooking remains a major problem," *Holiday Which?* says.

Other main complaints concerned travel arrangements although they were very satisfactory for two thirds of the sample, and company representatives and couriers. One in seven of the sample had some complaint about their accessibility or helpfulness.

Only four in ten holidaymakers thought the brochure description of their holiday was very good. The Enterprise and Intasun brochures were the

most criticized, their descriptions being rated poor by about one in six of their customers.

Overall, tour operators in France were more highly rated by their customers than companies taking holidaymakers to any other country. The companies that were most highly recommended by their customers were Vacances Franco-Britanniques, Swiss Travel Service, Travel Club of Upminster, Beach Villas, Eurocamp, Canvas Holidays, DFDS Longship and Kuoni.

Holiday Which? recommends booking with companies which still offer no-surcharge guarantees for holidays next summer and says that because of the risk that more operators will go bankrupt those whose holidays are not covered by a bonding scheme or travel agents' guarantees should take out their own insurance.

Odds are 3-1 in favour of burglars

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

If a home is burgled there is a less than one in three chance the burglar will be caught and little hope of recovering the stolen property, according to a *Which?* report on burglary prevention published today.

The report shows that in 1983 one home in 40 in Britain was burgled, according to official figures but also suggests that the real figure is higher as some incidents are not reported. It calculates that householders face a one in 25 chance of being burgled this year.

In a survey carried out for *Which?* it was discovered that the most vulnerable homes include those in city centres; flats or maisonettes; homes with high value valuables; detached buildings; or houses set back from roads.

A questionnaire answered by 567 readers of *Which?* showed that 14 per cent were defenceless against a burglar. The magazine suggests that protective measures should include fitting proper window and door locks, checking access to the rear, keeping the home looking occupied, and considering a burglar alarm.

Which? says that false calls from alarms cause difficulties. In London in 1983, 99 per cent of all calls from remote signalling systems were false. Police forces have decided to take action and may not respond after a certain number of false calls from one address.

According to the survey one false alarm in six was caused by faults in the system, but the most common cause was failure to check that the alarm was off before moving around the house.

The Neighbourhood Watch Schemes developed in London and other forces have led to a decrease in burglary.

Professional burglars were divided over the best form of defence. What may deter one may not deter another and *Which?* says "install as many protection devices and take as much trouble with security as you can".

Police may set up regional squads in war on drugs

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

The idea of a network of regional drug squads to combat traffickers is being studied by a police working party on drug investigations at Preston in April.

The working party, set up by the Association of Chief Police Officers, is to complete its discussions early next month and produce a report before the association's annual conference at Preston in April.

Its conclusions are also likely to be part of the association's evidence to the Commons home affairs committee, which is to begin a lengthy investigation of drug problems at the end of February.

The regional drug squads would run parallel with the network of regional crime squads, which now cover drug investigations. In future the crime squads would handle only those cases where a drug interest emerged from another crime.

There would be nine squads across England and Wales. The national co-ordinator of the crime squads would head both networks.

Customs would investigate drug cases up the point where the drugs came into Britain and reached the top of a distribution network. After that the regional squads would have responsibility. If the drugs reached local dealers they would become a target for the existing force drug squads.

Alternatives to a regional system which have also been discussed include increasing the strength of the regional crime squads by 100 officers, leaving the policing effort as it is or setting up a national drug squad.

The last has been ruled out by the working party as unacceptable to public opinion. Although some chief officers propose leaving the system unchanged, most officers are reported to favour change.

Increasing the strength of the regional crime squads would depend on a Home Office evaluation of their future which is to be completed shortly. If separate drug squads were created it might remove much of their work.



Dance debut: Kathy Healy, aged 15, from New York, who became the London Festival Ballet's youngest principal dancer when she appeared as Louise in *The Nutcracker* at the Festival Hall yesterday. (Photograph: Nigel Norrington).

Bumper year for air traffic

By Michael Bally, Transport Editor

Last year's growth in air freight and passenger traffic was the biggest for five years, according to estimates from the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Air traffic worldwide went up by 8.5 per cent, as a result of a general economic upturn.

The number of passengers carried was 5 per cent up at 832 million and passenger kilometres went up by 6 per cent to 1,256,000 million. Freight traffic grew 14.5 per cent to 39,400 million tonne-kilometres. Air mail was 7 per cent up.

The 8.5 per cent growth compares with an average of about 3 per cent a year since 1980, and a previous highest of 13 per cent in 1978.

London could lose its position as the world's foremost international air gateway unless the Government commits itself

World Air Traffic			
	Passengers	Freight (tonnes)	Growth (%)
1975	534m	8.7m	10
1976	576m	9.3m	8
1977	610m	10m	8
1978	650m	10.6m	13
1979	754m	11m	12
1980	748m	11m	3
1981	752m	10.9m	3
1982	774m	11.4m	2
1983	795m	12m	5
1984	832m	13.1m	8.5

an expanded Stansted, leaving Gatwick free to compete with Heathrow for scheduled services.

B-Cal fears that Gatwick's planned expansion, to 25 million passengers a year when the second terminal is opened in 1987 will be taken up largely by charter flights.

Lower air fares between Britain's towns and cities are expected from April.

Under new proposals published yesterday by the Civil Aviation Authority, airlines need publish planned new fares only 10 days in advance, and they will go through automatically unless the authority finds they are unfair.

"We do not envisage a price war," Mr Graham Norman, commercial director of British Midland Airways, said. "But it will encourage new marketing opportunities, and speed up the process of launching new fares."

£60,000 gift by marathon non-runners

By Patricia Clough

More than £60,000 has been raised for this year's London Marathon from would-be runners who cannot take part, the organizers said yesterday.

About 60,000 people who applied to join in the marathon on April 21 were told last month that they were not among the 22,000 picked to run, 18,000 of them chosen by computer. But 10,000 of the disappointed applicants gave their entry fees to the charity fund.

The £150,000 raised last year by the marathon, which included the £40,000 given by disappointed applicants, has been spent on improving sports facilities and helping other charities in London.

Participants in this year's event should start clear of one of the participants, Colin Rowland, aged 25, of Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, who has been in hospital 30 times and had nearly 300 stitches all over his body from accidents that will not stop happening to him.

He watched the last marathon on television from his bed after having 26 stitches in his knee from falling down stairs. His dozens of accidents included hitting himself with an iron bar, trapping his hand in a glass water, and getting caught up in the zip on his trousers, which required 14 stitches.

He said yesterday that he is running to raise money to thank those who looked after him.

Remand for royal chauffeur

It emerged yesterday that the parents of Kevin Michael Boland, a former trainee chauffeur in the household of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, employed in the royal household at Buckingham Palace.

Boland appeared at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday and was remanded on unconditional bail until January 17 for committal proceedings. He elected jury trial on a charge of having a survival knife as an offensive weapon in Horseferry Road on December 12.

He is understood to be living with his parents at Royal Mews. He resigned from his £60-a-week job after his arrest.

Press reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Drugs charge man found dead in cell

By Our Crime Reporter

An Indian businessman facing extradition to the United States to face heroin smuggling charges has been found dead in his cell at Pentonville prison, the Home Office said yesterday.

Mr Chattaranjan Joshi, aged 30, arrived in Britain from the United States last Sunday and was arrested at Heathrow airport by customs officers. He was remanded in custody at Bow Street Magistrates Court on Monday while awaiting court action on an international arrest warrant in New Jersey.

In the United States, Mr Joshi was alleged to be the ringleader of an international gang importing millions of dollars of heroin.

Yesterday the Home Office said that Mr Joshi was found hanged early on Wednesday. A prison service report is being drawn up before an inquest.

GPs split on court's pill ruling

General practitioners are divided over last month's Court of Appeal ruling that they should not prescribe contraceptives to girls under 16 without their parents' consent.

A survey shows that 49 per cent of doctors believe they should be able to prescribe the contraceptive pill without consulting parents.

Only 44 per cent said parental consent should be required first and 7 per cent of a sample of 120 GPs surveyed for the health magazine *Pulse* were unable to make up their minds.

The Court of Appeal delivered its ruling in favour of Mrs Victoria Gillick, of Wichech, Cambridgeshire, on December 20.

Bail refused in burial case

Avon North magistrates refused an application for bail made yesterday by the two men accused of desecrating the Tenth Duke of Beaufort's grave on Boxing Day.

Terence Helsby, aged 21, unemployed, of White Hart Lane, London, and John Curtin, aged 22, unemployed of Kingsland Avenue, Coventry, were remanded in police custody for seven days.

They were jointly charged with unlawfully and indecently trying to dig up a grave at a burial ground and remove parts of the body of the person buried there, namely Henry Hugh Arthur Fitzroy Somerset, and to interfere with and to offer indignity to the remains of the body.

They were further charged with stealing a wooden cross worth £250 belonging to the present duke, and unlawfully causing £100 damage to property belonging to the duke by daubing paint on a church and boundary wall.

Three people arrested during a demonstration at a Boxing Day meet of the Surrey Union Hunt at Guildford appeared before the town's magistrates yesterday.

The cases were adjourned for three weeks so that they could consult a solicitor. They were granted bail.

Pamela Clarke, of Ullet Road, Liverpool, is charged with willfully obstructing a policeman, Lorna Edwards, of East Street, Farnham, Surrey, and Graham Clarke, of Old Farm Avenue, Sidcup, Kent, are both accused of using abusive and insulting words.

Marcus Claridge, aged 19, of St Anne's Road, Cheltenham, appeared before magistrates at Ledbury, Hereford and Worcester, yesterday charged with burglary at the Perrycroft Lodge, Ledbury, last weekend, and stealing 20 cats valued at £400.

He was remanded on bail until January 24 on condition that he does not visit Perrycroft Lodge or take part in any animal rights activities.

Constantinou inquest opens

The inquest on Aristos Constantinou, aged 40, the wealthy fashion designer who was shot dead by masked intruders at his home in The Bishop's Avenue, Hampstead, north London, early on New Year's Day, was opened at Horney's Court yesterday and adjourned for three months.

Mrs Elena Constantinou, his widow, who is being cared for by relatives, was still in a state of severe shock yesterday.

Sons left as mother is deported

A London woman born in Cyprus was deported to Turkey yesterday, leaving behind two young sons who are British citizens, in spite of a last-minute appeal to the Prime Minister, by Mr John Silkin, the Labour MP for Depford.

Mrs Aysa Halil, aged 32, of Millmark Grove, New Cross, south-east London, left Heathrow airport with her daughter Sebem, aged three.

A Downing Street spokesman said that Mrs Thatcher would not intervene as it was a matter for the Home Office. She had asked for details so that she could reply fully to Mr Silkin.

Mr David Waddington, a Home Office minister, said that he did not believe the Government would allow Mrs Halil to return to Britain.

In 1971, Mrs Halil emigrated with her parents to Britain from Cyprus but they failed to register her as a British citizen while she was under 18.

Botham comes out of hiding

Ian Botham, the cricketer, came out of hiding yesterday after his arrest on suspicion of having drugs, and turned up for football training with the fourth division team, Scunthorpe United. He had not been seen since Wednesday when police released the news that he and his wife, Kathy, had been arrested on New Year's Eve.

The Somerset and England cricketer had appeared at the Scunthorpe ground for training at the scheduled time, 10 am, and Mr Frank Barlow, the team manager, had told reporters that he was not expected.

However, he was found training at Normanby country park, four miles away, and later joined his teammates on a jog around the park.

Asked by reporters if he would make any comment, he said: "Yes" and swore. He was then bundled into the back of an estate car and driven off.

Smuggled rat brings £400 fine

A French student loved her pet rat so much she would have died for him, and almost did, Miss Valerie Gilbert, aged 24, took her rat, named Ted, everywhere she went including on holiday to London.

She did not realize it was against the law to import animals and carried the rodent inside her jumper on a channel ferry on December 22.

During the crossing, Gilbert noticed rabies warning signs and concealed Ted so he would not be taken away. Clerkenwell Magistrates Court, south London, was told.

But as his owner had a drink in a King's Cross public house, regulars regarded the rat, who was on the loose, as vermin and stamped on him and killed him.

Colin Studdard, the defence, said the animal's death distressed her so much that Gilbert took a drugs overdose.

Gilbert, a student of architecture from Paris, was fined £400.

Country home under threat

Montalto House near Ballynagh, Co Down, one of Northern Ireland's best-known country homes may have to be substantially demolished after being extensively damaged by fire on Wednesday night.

Forensic experts were yesterday trying to determine the cause of the fire and arson was not ruled out.

Mencap to investigate school dispute

A dispute over the refusal of permission to open a residential school for Down's Syndrome children at Teignmouth, Devon, is to be investigated by Mencap, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults.

Mencap's decision to intervene comes after a request from Mr and Mrs Barry Silkstone, the

Landlords and restaurant owners refused to serve mentally handicapped holidaymakers

saying that other visitors were being put off.

The Silkstones, who run a similar school in Bristol, are particularly concerned that Teignmouth planning officials did not make any objections to their application for converting the hotel.

Computer networks fight for insurance business

High street brokers will be able to give consumers quotations on practically any insurance policy if two competing computer networks connecting insurance companies to brokers prove successful.

British Telecom and the computer company IBM will test their pilot networks during the next six months in the hope of attracting the main companies. Among those involved in the pilot networks are Sun Alliance, Commercial Union, Prudential and Legal and General.

The British Insurance Association, which represents 300 of the main insurance companies in Britain, has just completed its own study of such a network. More than 60 of the top companies among its members have endorsed the association's plans. Ideally, the association would like only one network, supplied through the association to its members.

Some computer terminals have been installed in brokers' offices. They have proved successful but are limited in their capability because they are attached to only one or two insurance companies. The brokers attached to the British Telecom, IBM or British Insurance Association networks would be able to be connected to many insurance company computers and obtain quotations in seconds.

Other electronics groups have been making plans to compete in the multimillion pound insurance business. The British company Plessey has approached the British Insurance Association about its members' needs.

In fact, British Telecom, IBM, and the British Insurance Society may end as partners in one network, with British Telecom providing the client association co-ordinating its members on the network, and the computer expertise coming from IBM which supplies much of the equipment used by the British insurance industry.

The first of British Telecom's newly-styled high street retail shops opened in Southend, Essex, yesterday. The new shops, which could be the first of a countryside network, will sell equipment and provide advice and services to customers with facilities to pay their telephone bills.

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Cabinet papers of 1954: 3 When pensions roused ministers' fury

The year of the first four-minute mile and the introduction of parking meters on London streets, saw the Cabinet embroiled as now with strikes and the control of public spending, also with the perils of the Queen's foreign tours. DAVID WALKER looks at the life of government as revealed in the latest batch of Cabinet papers declassified this week.

In a year brimming with international events, the test of the first hydrogen bomb, the collapse of the French in Indo-China, grave warnings from the Chancellor of the Exchequer of an impending crisis of public spending, the issue which came closest to splitting Sir Winston Churchill's government was teachers' pensions.

From February till December 1954 the Cabinet was wracked with disagreement over whether to proceed with a Bill increasing teachers' superannuation contributions from 5 to 6 per cent of salary.

The issue contributed to the dismissal in the autumn of the Minister for Education, Miss Florence Horsbrugh. At one point the Bill was deferred because an adverse vote might undermine the position of Sir Anthony Eden and the British negotiators at the Indo-China conference taking place in Geneva.

Sir Winston Churchill even spoke of the Government being defeated and having to seek a vote of confidence.

The Prime Minister tended to take a soft line on social issues, siding with the health minister over a proposal to raise prescription charges and postponing discussion on increasing school meal charges. At one point he rounded angrily on Labour critics accusing him of abandoning the Beveridge social security scheme established by the Atlee government.

Sir Winston's attitude evidently made life difficult for Mr R. A. Butler, the Chancellor. On one occasion he spoke of the "too heavy" load of government expenditure, blaming defence and agricultural price supports as main

culprits. The review of farm prices was sacrificed to "political expediency", he said. In consequence, Mr Butler's estimates for spending grew during the year, leading him to predict a coming crisis.

"I am sure we must check the growth of our total expenditure before we embark upon new social spending, however strong the case for this may be", he told his fellow ministers.

As far as the archives reveal the secret life of British government, much Cabinet discussion appears stuporously dull.

As an example of the latter category, during 1954 the Cabinet discussed the alarming growth of "unmoral offences of the gravest kind" - sodomy and bestiality. But after the Prime Minister proposed a ban on newspaper reports of court proceedings involving homosexuality charges, nothing was done.

The gentlemen of the Cabinet were offended by "the amount of soliciting by prostitutes in some parts of central London. This was deplorable and probably without parallel in the history of other civilized countries. But legislation was to take several years to appear.

Action with enduring effect was taken during 1954 on parking and road transport. Deaths and injuries on the roads had increased by 28 per cent in the five years to the end of 1953; the Cabinet in response approved a programme of vehicle testing - the first MOT tests - new street lighting, road widening and more extensive police patrolling. Parking meltdowns were approved, on condition that the proceeds were used to build more garages.

Princess loses her destroyer escort

The hitherto secret record shows that 1954 was the year Princess Margaret lost her destroyer escort.

Until then whenever the Princess, like other senior members of the Royal Family, flew across any large expanse of sea the Royal Navy posted ships at intervals along her route. (That was in addition to the two RAF planes carrying life-saving equipment flying behind and in front of the royal plane.)

In November 1954 the First Lord of the Admiralty addressed a plaintive memorandum to the Cabinet saying that not only was the cost of the Princess's ships growing onerous, but that providing them depleted the fleet to the point of endangering national security.

Princess Margaret was due to fly to the West Indies in February 1955. To post vessels on route would cost £40,000 and would halve the numbers of Home Fleet destroyers and frigates due to take part in combined Home and Mediterranean Fleet exercises in the Gibraltar area.

The Cabinet was impressed. The Queen was approached and agreed to her sister losing the ships.

Thanks to Sir Winston, who took an intense and fussy interest in the well being of the Queen, the Cabinet was much exercised by royal matters. There is a lengthy exchange of telegrams between London and Canberra over the Queen's safety during a visit to Australia.

Polio had broken out in Western Australia and Sir Winston fretted over whether to cancel the visit. Mr Robert Menzies, the Australian Prime Minister, kept a cool head. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were given an injection of gamma-globulin (giving the Queen a sore arm and a restless night) and the tour went on, with handshaking forbidden and close contacts with crowds kept to a minimum.

Churchill took special pains

The archives show that Sir Winston Churchill was not averse to using his power and influence to look after institutions such as the Savoy Hotel.

Discovering that the Savoy was the subject of a takeover bid by the property speculators Mr Harold Samuel and Mr Charles Clore, Sir Winston ordered the Board of Trade to stop them.

Mr Peter (later Lord) Thorneycroft, president of the board, was embarrassed and tried to refuse. But Sir Winston, in a sequence of scathing memos, told Mr Thorneycroft he wanted an inspector to investigate the transactions in Savoy Hotel shares, which he called a "profit-making rump by speculators".

A chastened Thorneycroft obliged, appointing an inspector under the Companies Act, 1948.

To keep the Queen informed about political events and insisted that Balmoral be equipped with a decoder so that cyphered Foreign Office messages could be sent there. But Sir Michael Adeane, the Queen's private secretary, was reluctant.

Honour was satisfied when special code pads and cypher books were supplied to the Queen's staff.

A stickler for protocol, Sir Winston insisted that he had to travel to Gibraltar so that the welcome accorded the Queen and Duke, stopping there on their return from a tour of the Commonwealth, should have "emphatic ministerial cover".

The Foreign Office was alarmed at the effect of Sir Winston's presence on the rock on relations with Spain, then asserting its claim to Gibraltar. In the event, Sir Winston was persuaded not to go only because the international situation was grave and the Foreign Secretary was away attending the Geneva conference on Indo-China.

Concluded.

Gibraltar blockade will lift as talks open

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Britain and Spain will open talks on the future of Gibraltar, including the sensitive sovereignty issue, in Geneva on February 5, the same day that Spain lifts restrictions on travel to and from the Rock.

Diplomatic sources said here yesterday that as Spain raises the restrictions to allow tourists of all countries to travel freely between Andalusia and the Rock and vice versa, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish colleague, were to meet in Geneva.

The two ministers greeted on Brussels last November formally to discuss Spanish claims of sovereignty for the first time. They will be starting what has been called a negotiating process to settle all outstanding differences and promote cooperation between Gibraltar and its Spanish neighbours. Both sides expect an immediate increase in the number of tourists.

Señor José Rodríguez, Chief Minister of Andalusia, is to meet the mayors of the seven towns of the Campo of Gibraltar next week to arrange details of the Rock's opening. Señor Antonio Díaz Lara, mayor of Linares, the town facing the Rock, said yesterday the contacts would include a meeting in Gibraltar of the mayors and the Deputy Governor.

When the González Government took office in December 1982 it immediately lifted the restrictions imposed in 1969 by the Franco regime to allow those holding Spanish or Gibraltarian passports to cross regularly on foot. But foreign tourists have not enjoyed this facility and the Spaniards have not been allowed to take back purchases made in Gibraltar's shops.

The Spanish press are speculating that the agreement may lead quickly to reciprocal visits by Señor González, the Prime Minister, and Mrs Thatcher as a prelude to state visits.

LONDON: A deal with Spain over extradition of criminals could be agreed "in the very near future", the Home Office said yesterday (Peter Evans writes).

Negotiations for a new treaty to replace the one that lapsed six years ago are on course and fresh means to deter some of Britain's most wanted men from using Spain as a haven now look within reach.

This latest assessment of moves initiated by Mr Leon Brittan, Home Secretary, gives an optimistic flavour to the outcome of talks between British and Spanish officials now being digested by both sides.

Though further work remains to be done, more meetings may not be necessary before agreement is reached, according to the Home Office. Correspondence may settle details.

The talks began after Mr Brittan approached the Madrid authorities in July. He was concerned by a growing list of wanted people in Spain, apparently turning their noses at British police.

The US-Japanese summit Shultz and Abe to work on trade balance

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan and Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, Japanese Prime Minister, have agreed to work to open Japanese markets to American products and to resist protectionist pressures in both countries.

The two leaders, who met in Los Angeles on Wednesday, assigned senior officials to try to eliminate the friction caused by a US trade imbalance with Japan estimated at about \$34 billion (£29 billion) for 1984 and even more this year.

There has been growing pressure on the Reagan Administration to take tough counter measures against Japanese trade barriers. Mr Nakasone, in his departure statement, called for "a more balanced development of our trade and economic relations" and said Japan will promote economic policies that will enhance growth, led by domestic private demand, and will make further market-opening efforts.

President Reagan, reviewing East-West relations, promised to pursue effective arms reduction with the Soviet Union in next week's Geneva talks, but said that hard bargaining lay ahead.

Economic issues dominated the three-hour talks between the President and Mr Nakasone. They said attempts at more balanced development of trade would be supervised by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, and Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister. They are expected to give a progress report to the President and Mr Nakasone at the seven-nation economic meeting in Bonn in May.

American officials later said the US-Japanese talks would centre on such things as telecommunications, computers and electronics, wood products and medical and pharmaceutical goods.

They also hoped progress would be made in helping American manufacturers who want to sell telecommunications equipment in Japan. On April 1, Tokyo will start breaking up the government telecommunications monopoly.

Unlike other US-Japanese summits during President Reagan's first term, the Los Angeles meeting focused mainly on paving the way for American exports to compete in Japan rather than on restricting Japanese sales in the US.

On arms control, the President reassured Mr Nakasone that any agreements would "keep in mind the interests of our friends and allies in Europe and Asia". President Reagan's

"global approach" on arms control would have the Soviet Union from transferring medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe to Asia.

Mr Reagan thanked Mr Nakasone for his support of the US approach on arms control. The Japanese leader, in his statement, said: Japan would carry on trying to improve its contribution to its self-defence.

Both leaders emphasized the importance of US-Japanese ties. The President said no relationship was "more important to peace and prosperity" and promised to strengthen it.

An American official said Mr Nakasone had expressed "full understanding" of President Reagan's Star Wars missile-defence research programme. The official agreed that this fell "a shade short of expressing full support."

Jackson's appeal to the Pope

From Peter Nichols Rome

The Rev Jesse Jackson, the American civil rights leader, has appealed privately to the Pope to visit South Africa as a means of denouncing apartheid.

The Pope received Mr Jackson and his party yesterday for between 20 and 30 minutes, Mr Jackson said. They covered five subjects, concentrating on apartheid.

Mr Jackson said he brought the to the Pope's attention the similarity between the situation in South Africa and that in Poland. The "tremendous parallels" included repression of the free trade union movement, imprisonment of trade union leaders, and the impending trial of Mr Denis Hurley, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Durban on charges arising out of a pastoral letter in which he criticized police violence.

The Pope's presence in South Africa, Mr Jackson said, would inspire people and help bring about a more just society.



Papal audience: The Rev Jesse Jackson with the Pope, whom he asked to visit South Africa as a means of denouncing apartheid.

Italy wants EEC to lead Middle East peace drive

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome

Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, leaves today for Jordan for a visit which may well prove to have symbolic importance for the Italian presidency of the European Community, as well as more immediate practical effects for the country's increasingly active policy in the Middle East.

During their presidency, which began on Tuesday, the Italians want to give the Community a more decisive role in foreign affairs.

They hope in the first instance that the Community's weight can be brought to bear in the Middle East. It was for this reason that Signor Bettino Craxi, the Prime Minister, and Signor Andreotti took the highly controversial step during their visit to Tunisia last month of meeting Mr Yassir Arafat,

the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

A result of that meeting, apart from Israeli annoyance, was that the Palestinian leader seemed ready to support Jordan should Amman accept the prospect of direct talks with Israel.

Italy's effort has not been helped by reminders in Rome that a warrant is out for Mr Arafat's arrest on charges arising from the arming by the PLO of left-wing terrorist movements in Italy in the past.

The Prime Minister's office points out, however, that the chance of progress towards peace far outweighs this judicial problem, and there can be no doubt that the Prime Minister and his Foreign Minister believe that the moment has come for a decisive step to be taken in the Middle East.

Andorrans seek special treatment

From Richard Wigg Madrid

Andorra, the principality in the Pyrenees between Spain and France, wants to negotiate direct with the EEC about its future in the light of Spain's proposed entry to the community.

This was indicated in the new year message of Señor Josep Pinya, the Chief Minister. Andorra, a tax haven lives almost exclusively on tourism and trading imported goods. Señor Pinya, a local businessman who was elected Chief Minister last May, said Andorra wants special treatment from the EEC.

Andorrans would like a status similar to the one Spain wants to negotiate in Brussels for the Canary Islands.

Vietnamese guns check guerrilla attacks

Ampl (Reuter) - Vietnamese

artillery pounded Cambodian guerrillas yesterday frustrating their bid to regain control of Nong Samet, their key base camp on the Thai border.

The Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) said they had recaptured most of the camp, attacked on Christmas Day by Vietnamese and Cambodian government troops backed by artillery and tanks.

But they said they failed to push out the remnants of the Vietnamese force because of land mines and a barrage of artillery and mortar fire.

Thai military sources said close fighting was reported in the base, situated 15 miles south of Ampil opposite the Thai border.

Meanwhile at a Thai hospital at Khao-i-Dang, near the same

border, a French rehabilitation worker said yesterday that hundreds of soldiers and civilians are killed or maimed by land mines in the Cambodian guerrilla war every month.

"A handicapped soldier is a burden, a dead one is in a way a relief," said the worker, M Serge Rochette.

The hospital run by Operation Handicap International, a private French organization, provided evidence of the effectiveness of land mines, a weapon most feared by combatants of both sides.

PEKING: Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodian resistance leader accused Vietnam yesterday of "terrorism" by killing civilians in their Christmas offensive against Rithisen one of his coalition's main camps (AP reports).

The new European Commission: 3

Tough man in a tough post reflects depth of team's abilities

In this third article on the new European Commission, which takes over on Monday, Ian Murray looks at the man with the most difficult responsibility - agriculture - and at the problems posed by the return of the Community's most experienced commissioner to Brussels.

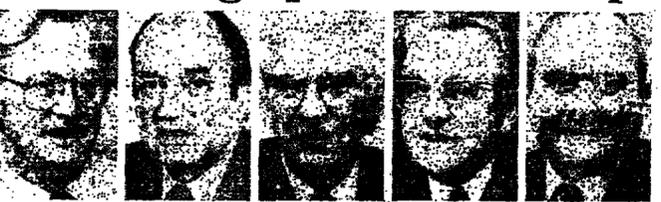
Mr Frans Andriessen is a tough man who has been given the toughest job in the new Commission, that of running agriculture and fisheries. In the four years ahead he will not only have to steer the common agricultural policy through a time of acute economic stringency but will also have to manage the enormous stresses and strains of enlargement.

He is one of only three survivors from the old Commission, and over the past four years he has built up a reputation for cool, objective ruthlessness in dealing with competition policy. It was he who decided whether or not companies were guilty of unfair cross-border practices. British Leyland, IBM and Dunlop all fell foul of him.

He was also a key negotiator in the arrangements for restructuring the European steel industry, keeping a balanced eye on what individual countries were doing, to make sure they were giving no unfair advantage to their own companies.

Trained in law at Utrecht University, he became director of a Catholic housing institute before going into politics in 1958. By 1971 he had become president of the Dutch Christian Democrat group in Parliament, and he was then chosen as Minister of Finance.

Mr Andriessen left office two years later because he wanted to follow a more austere programme than the Government was prepared to adopt at the time, although subsequently it has very much followed his ideas. After a short spell in the Dutch Senate



New Commission responsibilities (from left to right): Mr Andriessen (agriculture, fisheries), M Cheysson (Mediterranean, North-South relations), Mr de Clercq (external relations, trade), Mr Mosar (energy) and Mr Christophersen (budget).

he came to Brussels to be given the complicated competition dossier.

He has a cool, methodical way of thinking and speaking, and he was clearly chosen for the agriculture job because of his proven ability to deal rationally and objectively with very complicated subjects.

But in his old job he was only rarely in touch with the Council of Ministers; in his new incarnation he will have to stand up to the intense political pressure of the agricultural ministers, who are traditionally the most difficult, passionate and undisciplined of all.

He is aged 55 and married with four children.

M Claude Cheysson will be the most experienced commissioner in the new team, having first been appointed to Brussels in 1973. But his return is something of an embarrassment, since he cannot be a vice-president and he cannot have the portfolio he really wanted, development policy.

The standard joke during his previous commissions was "what is the difference between Claude Cheysson and God?" The answer was: "God is everywhere; Cheysson is everywhere except Brussels".

Certainly travel was his hallmark. He had crisscrossed the world in the service of France from 1948 to the time

he was sent to Brussels 25 years later. He knew the Far East, Africa and Indonesia. He was an expert on the Sahara and had served a term as chairman of France's largest state chemical company.

In Brussels he set about building up what is, by agriculture, the biggest spending area of the Community. He was father of the Lomé conventions and won the nickname "Mr Third World".

His only real political involvement had been as head of the private office of the late Pierre Mendès-France, when the latter was prime minister. But he had always had links with the Socialist Party and was among President Mitterrand's first choices as a Cabinet minister.

M Cheysson had been hotly tipped as a likely candidate as president of the new Commission. But his outspokenness as French Foreign Minister made him several enemies in the Council of Ministers and he was passed over for M Jacques Delors.

It is a measure of the skill of M Delors that he managed to find a travelling job for his old partner in the French Government, while denying him the development portfolio he craved. The job is looking after North-South relations and caring for Mediterranean politics.

In theory this means that M Cheysson will be in charge of negotiations with newly industrialized countries, with Latin Africa and with places like Hong Kong and Singapore. He will also have to protect the interests of the Mediterranean countries, particularly the French-speaking ones in North Africa which are likely to be most affected by Spanish and Portuguese membership of the Community.

In practice it may prove difficult to stop a man of his experience from straying into areas covered by other commissioners and it will test M Delors's skill to channel M Cheysson's talents.

M Cheysson is aged 64 and married with six children.

Mr Willy de Clercq is a member of the "new Commission because of the language question in Belgium. The man he replaces, Viscount Etienne Davignon, was the undisputed "star" of the old Commission, and would probably have been reappointed if the Flemish-controlled coalition Government had not felt it was high time to give the job to a Dutch speaker.

Mr de Clercq, however, is definitely not a second choice candidate and has been one of the underdog stars of the present Belgian Government. A

deputy prime minister since 1966, he is a workaholic who reads financial reports for pleasure.

As Minister for Finance in the present Government he has been one of the principal thinkers behind the current austerity programme in Belgium.

He is also internationally known, having been twice president of the International Monetary Fund's policy-making interim committee. This experience, coupled with his good knowledge of languages, means he should be able to slip easily into the important role of negotiator for the Community with the industrialized world - in particular the United States and Japan.

He is 57, married with three children.

The new Luxembourg commissioner in place of the outgoing president, Mr Gaston Thorn, is one of seven trained lawyers in the new team. Mr Nic Mosar is an expert on insurance matters, with a long career as a Christian Democrat in Luxembourg politics.

He has been put in charge of the Community's energy policy, which at the moment is one of the best-run sectors in the EEC. His task will be to plan for the future, with the immediate aim to produce a blueprint for energy needs and resources up to 1995.

A big problem will be to define a role for coal, the importance of which has remained static for some time and is showing signs of diminishing. He is likely to define just what constitutes an "economic pit", and to draw up rules governing which ones can be allowed to stay open with what levels of subsidy.

He is also in charge of the allied subject of supplies for

Euromat, a growth area in the Community.

A third portfolio is to look after the Community publications office, which is conveniently situated for him in Luxembourg.

Aged 57, he is married with three children.

Mr Henning Christophersen is one of the youngest members of the new Commission and reputedly one of the most ambitious. He was the first to be nominated, being proposed as president last spring by the coalition Danish Government of which he has been Finance and Deputy Prime Minister for more than two years.

An economist and journalist before being elected to the Folketing in 1971 as a Liberal, he has specialized in financial affairs and has been given the poisoned chalice of the budget as his particular responsibility. Now that its particular quarrel over the subject is over, Britain is only too glad to see another taking the subject on.

From the very beginning he will be in the unenviable position of having no EEC budget to work with, and eventually it will be up to him to try to put together a budget which the Parliament can accept. The penalty for failure can be that the Parliament will decide to use its powers to censure the entire Commission.

With his thirst for work and his refusal for controlling finance, Mr Christophersen is said to be eager to face the challenge. Ironically he may find more problems with his own countrymen than anywhere else, since Denmark is increasingly being seen as the Community country least willing to surrender any control to Brussels.

He is aged 45, married with three children.

Concluded

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It took a British company to develop Europe's most exciting new cars.

PHOTOGRAPH BY [unreadable]

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The best to be expected of the Shultz-Gromyko meeting in Geneva on Monday and Tuesday is that it will be the beginning of a lengthy process. That should be no bad thing in terms of East-West relations. The resumption of a serious and constructive dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union might well do more for international stability than any arms control agreement that is likely to be reached.

There are serious doubts as to how much can be achieved by an arms settlement at a time when weapons technology is developing so rapidly. Each agreement can act as a spur to more ingenious research to get round the new restrictions.

But the more terrible the weapons become, the more necessary it is for the two sides to keep open the lines of communication between them. If it is also possible to secure a balance of strength at lower levels of arms so much the better.

The question of consultation

Protracted negotiations might well, however, strain the cohesion of the Western alliance. The United States would like there to be two sets of talks, one for offensive weapons and the other for defensive systems. This raises the question of consultation between the United States and its European allies.

In the last negotiations there was on the whole pretty full consultation over the INF talks on intermediate range missiles. But the United States did little more than keep the allies informed about what was going on in the separate Start forum on strategic arms.

That may have been understandable. The United States was negotiating there about weapons based on its own territory or in the oceans of the world. But this time the Pershing and cruise missiles, in which the European allies have such a direct interest, are intended to form only part of the subject matter of the talks on offensive weapons. The discussions on defensive systems will have no direct and immediate connection with Europe at all.

In these circumstances, whatever good intentions there may be in advance, will the United States really take the trouble to keep the allies fully in touch right across the spectrum of negotiations?

The other danger is that European opinion may put the blame on the United States if the negotiations drag on. If only the Americans would abandon their Strategic Defence Initiative, or Star Wars scheme, it may be argued, the Soviet Union would then make the necessary concessions over missiles.

Europeans would be all the more likely to make this criticism because they do not like the star wars project anyway. There is a conflict of interests here between the United States and its European allies which cannot be wished away by smooth diplomacy.

For the United States, star wars offers the prospect, no matter how distant, of a unique form of protection. For Europe it raises a new uncertainty. If the superpowers felt safe from nuclear attack, would the American nuclear shield still seem convincing protection against Soviet conventional strength.

Difference of perspective

This difference of perspective could not be changed by Mrs Thatcher's recent visit to Washington. But it is reasonable for American's allies to expect the United States to observe one of the principles that she agreed then with President Reagan; that the overall aim is to enhance, and not to undermine, deterrence.

There can be no certainty as to how far and how fast the star wars project could be developed. But the defence of the West may well have to depend in whole or in part for the next quarter of a century upon the concept of deterrence which has kept the peace for many years now. The security of Europe might rest upon the threat of nuclear retaliation longer than that.

If Western Europe and the United States are not to be drawn apart during these negotiations there will have to be respect for each other's legitimate interests. As the leader of the alliance there will be a particular responsibility on the United States not to jeopardize confidence in the system of security that we have today in order to justify the system of defence that it might have tomorrow.

The straying Soviet missile

Embarrassed Finns hunt for wreckage in dark Arctic wilderness

From Olli Kirvina Helsinki

In Arctic darkness, Finnish troops searched for wreckage yesterday through the endless forests of the most remote wilderness of Lapland after Norway said a Soviet cruise missile apparently crashed there last week.

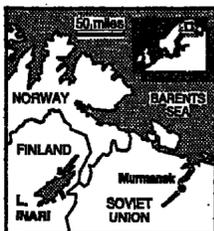
Frontier guards used a helicopter in the search around the frozen and snow-covered Lake Inari, which covers 400 square miles well inside the Arctic Circle. It is about 120 miles west of Murmansk, a key Soviet submarine base.

The area is sparsely populated at this time of the year, and temperatures plunged yesterday to minus 40 degrees Centigrade. Local residents said it could be weeks before anything is found.

A short statement by the frontier guards yesterday said an unidentified flying object had entered Finland's air space from the east flying towards Lake Inari on Friday afternoon at an altitude of several kilometres and at high speed. It disappeared in the area of the lake, but nothing had been found.

A local couple called Valle heard a loud bang, the statement said. A search had begun immediately, and was continuing.

Diplomatic observers from Nato countries see the brief statement as indicating deep embarrassment in neutral Finland, which is linked to Moscow



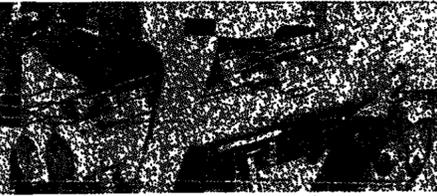
by a 1948 friendship treaty and has traditionally sought to avoid controversy.

The search itself developed yesterday into something of a media event, with scores of journalists converging with private planes and cars on the cold and inhospitable area, which has become strategically very sensitive.

Finnish officials said earlier that the flying object was picked up by the Kaamanen radar station, and that two interceptors were scrambled, but they found nothing.

They refused to identify the object as a Soviet cruise missile, as Norway has said. Nor have the Finns confirmed that it had crashed, but media reports have spoken throughout of a Soviet missile crashing in the wilderness.

In private comments, Finnish officials were unanimous yesterday that the incident was an accident, pointing out that the Soviet Union has nothing to gain in provoking a border



Shaddock missiles: Identified by the Norwegian Air Force.

Fog holds up Andes crash rescue team

La Paz (AP) - Fog and rain delayed efforts yesterday to reach the wreckage of an American Eastern Airlines jet embedded on a steep, snow-covered slope in the Andes. Officials said the 29 passengers and crew were presumed dead.

Two Bolivian Air Force helicopters and several planes, as well as Eastern Airline specialists, were grounded at El Alto airport by the weather, as was a Red Cross rescue team at the base of the 21,450 ft Illimani mountain. The crash took place at a height on the mountain of 19,600 ft.

"It appears the plane crashed head-on and the shape of a plane is clearly visible," Colonel Grover Rojas of the Bolivian Air Force, said. "The remains of the plane are scattered over a large area. We rule out any possibility of survivors." A photograph of the crash clearly showed the outline of a large aircraft in the snow, with wreckage of the fuselage scattered about.

Two on cocaine charge

Bogota (Reuters) - Two senior officials of Colombia's presidential press office have been detained in connection with the smuggling of cocaine to Spain in a diplomatic pouch, the Foreign Minister Señor Augusto Ramirez Osorno said.

He told a news conference that the head of the presidential press office's international section, Señor Juan Castillo, and his assistant, Señor Carlos Osorio, had been charged with drug trafficking by a judge investigating the alleged delivery of 6lb of cocaine in a

diplomatic pouch to the Colombian embassy in Madrid. A Spaniard identified as José Javier Gomez Ballesteros was supposed to have been caught with the drugs in Madrid last week.

CAMPES BESIEGED: Two Colombian soldiers were killed in clashes with guerrillas near their besieged mountain headquarters. The fighting, which the Army says has killed four soldiers and 12 rebels so far, is for possession of M-19 guerrilla camps near Corinto, 180 miles from Bogota.

ANC guerrillas free comrades from Swazi jail

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

Swazi police were hunting a group of heavily-armed African National Congress (ANC) guerrillas yesterday after a series of raids on police stations and prisons in which six prisoners were set free.

The raids on Wednesday indicated that the ANC has detailed knowledge of where its members are being held after the crackdown by Swazi authorities following the killing last month of a top security police officer.

In Mbabane, the capital, the 15-strong gang armed with AK47 assault rifles threatened to kill unarmed guards unless police cell doors were unlocked, and went from cell to cell to locate three comrades facing arms or illegal entry charges.

Swazi police are believed to have detained about a dozen ANC members after last month's assassination and seized large numbers of arms. The Commissioner, Mr Mjize Simelane, has warned ANC members hiding in Swaziland that they will be hunted and deported to South Africa

China slims down its army

Peking (Reuters) - China's Chief of General Staff has said the Army will thin its ranks further to save money and free men to help the country's economy.

In an interview with the China Daily published yesterday, General Yang Dezhi said a large number of officers and soldiers would be demobilized. The Army would continue to update its weaponry and improve education and training.

The Army is last on the list of priorities of Mr Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader, for national development and has been criticized for being backward and having too many old and ineffectual leaders.

Unita envoy for talks in London

By Richard Dowden

Mr Tito Chingunji, the representative in Europe of Unita, the South African-backed Angola rebel movement, is to hold talks today with senior Foreign Office officials on the fate of three Britons kidnapped in Angola last Saturday.

So far both the Foreign Office

incident in a sensitive area just before the Geneva arms negotiations.

A Finnish Lapp, Mr Taneli Gauriloff, said yesterday that he had heard noises like thunder and a sharp explosion last Friday.

"I twice heard a sound similar to a plane breaking the sound barrier. It sounded like a strong thunderstorm, and I thought a neighbour's jet had entered this side of the border, he said.

Another local resident, Mr Lauri Ananen, told the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation he thought the explosion was one of the noises he often hears from the Soviet side of the border, from which he also heard the aircraft noises.

The distance between Lake Inari and the Soviet border is no more than a few kilometres, and the frontier guard statement indicates that the incident could have lasted only a few moments. At present there is no way of confirming that the object was in fact destroyed inside Finland.

Cruise missiles have become a symbol of uncertainty in Nordic security policies, because it is not clear whether the neutral nations, Sweden and Finland, can prevent their overflights, threatening the delicate Nordic balance.

In general, Finnish officials have as usual been very cautious in their statements, because the country's longest border is with the Soviet Union and the Finns do not want to endanger their delicate relations with speculative publicity that might offend Moscow.

The Finnish Government has given no indication of what it will do if the remains of a Soviet missile are found in Lapland. It is clear, however, that the discovery would present a major policy problem of the sort it has always wanted to avoid.

Reprieve for Hanoi prisoners

Hanoi (AFP) - Vietnam has reprieved two of five prisoners sentenced to death for treason and espionage last month, including a man whom France regards as a national, the Vietnamese news agency (UNA) reports.

Mai Van Hanh, aged 56, and Hai Van Thanh, aged 63, had their sentences commuted to life imprisonment.

The two men were among five who were sentenced to death on December 18 in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon, for treason and spying for China, with Thailand's complicity. They were also allegedly in touch with the US Central Intelligence Agency.

France had asked Vietnam to show clemency to the five, particularly for Hanh, whom Paris regards as a French national, but Vietnam insisted he was Vietnamese like the other prisoners.

Informed sources earlier said French diplomats here had not been allowed to contact him.

The news agency made no mention of the fate of the other three men condemned to death after Vietnam's biggest espionage trial since the communists' victory in the Vietnam war in 1975.

The three include a second man who has claimed French citizenship, Tran Van Ba, aged 39, but the French authorities have not said they regard him as a French national.

Last week, the French Prime Minister, Laurent Fabius, sent a message to his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr Pham Van Dong, asking him to spare all five prisoners.

Its total strength is four million, according to the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Last month, China announced the resignation of 40 of the Army's most senior officers to make way for younger men.

The Army has been told to re-tool some of its defence industries to produce consumer goods for the civilian market and to help the economy in any way it can.

Yang said that last year the Army took part in more than 1,100 state and local projects. "It has rarely happened that the People's Liberation Army has devoted so many troops to so many projects". The Army also

Quebec English speakers hail court's decision

From John Best Ottawa

A controversial Quebec law which prescribes the use of French only on public signs, including commercial advertisements, has been struck down by a ruling of the province's Superior Court.

The ruling, by Mr Justice Pierre Boudreau in Montreal on Wednesday, was hailed as a victory for English-speaking residents of the predominantly French-speaking province.



Bird's eye view: High above Innsbruck, a competitor in practice for today's World Cup ski jumping contest at the Berg Isel stadium.

Policeman near collapse as he denies seeing priest beaten

From Roger Boyes, Torun, Poland

"I couldn't really understand what was going on, everything was running against what we had planned... All I know is my fear was growing." Close to fainting, his face contorted with nervous spasms, former secret police lieutenant Waldemar Chmielewski yesterday tried to distance himself from his two colleagues accused of murdering the pro-Solidarity priest, Jerzy Popieluszko.

As he described the initial stages of the kidnap and the way the gang's ringleader Captain Grzegorz Piotrowski, dragged the priest by his cassock, Chmielewski began to sway on his feet and requested an immediate adjournment.

Two doctors, who with anti-terrorist commandos are permanently in the Torun court-room, examined the lieutenant - now demoted to private - and pronounced him fit to continue testifying.

Chmielewski claims never to have seen any beating of the priest. During the most savage beatings, when Popieluszko tried to escape from the getaway car, Chmielewski claims to have been changing the number plates at the rear, out of sight of the assault.

Despite his stammer and evident infirmity - after his fainting fit he was allowed to testify sitting down and take a break every hour - Chmielewski's defence of his actions seems more concise and consistent

than that of Lieutenant Lizek Pekala, the driver of the getaway car, who testified last week.

Like Pekala, Chmielewski said he was convinced that "unlimited funds" had been made available for the operation against the priest by officers high up in the secret police. But he emphasized that the point of the kidnap was supposed to be to terrify the priest.

An earlier attempt to cause the priest's car to crash - while driving on the Gdansk road on October 12, seven days before the kidnap - was simply intimidation. "The charge that we were going to burn the car with possibly injured people inside is nonsense.

Various plans were mooted - to burn the empty car as a warning to the priest, to re-spray it and sell it, to take it apart and sell it for spare parts - but murder was not one of them, Chmielewski said.

Contradictions emerged repeatedly in yesterday's testimony. If, he was asked by the judge, there was no plan to murder the priest, why did the conspirators bring two sacks of stones to attach to his legs? Chmielewski hesitated: "The only purpose was to tie them to the feet of the priest to frighten him with the prospect of dropping him in water, but not to kill him."

The secret policeman was asked too why he did not abandon the mission when he realized it was getting out of control. Only fear of the authority of Piotrowski prevented him from leaving, he said.

But the elaborate and yet oddly clumsy preparations for the two assaults on the priest - the attempts to crash his car on October 12 and the kidnap and killing a week later - seem to show that murder was a real possibility. Piotrowski asked the two lieutenants to acquire socks filled with sand, a large bedspread, two sacks of stones, ether, gauze, knives and handcuffs.

The handcuffs proved a problem - and Chmielewski's account produced a moment of tragic-comedy as he described his attempts to find suitable manacles.

First Chmielewski managed to borrow a set of handcuffs from a friend in the uniformed police, then Piotrowski demanded that he obtain a second pair. Chmielewski again approached his friend, who exclaimed: "What do you think I am - a warehouse?" The friend explained how one could buy a pair of manacles on the black market for 1,000 zloties, not much more than a pound on the illegal currency market. "Oh yes," said the judge, "is that right?" and started to take notes.

Dilemma faces Fabius on school computer

Paris (Reuters) - M. Laurent Fabius, the French Prime Minister, will decide this month whether to proceed with a controversial plan to install tens of thousands of personal computers in schools throughout France, official sources said.

The decision will include the politically sensitive choice of whether to give the 1 billion francs (£90 million) contract to French state-controlled companies, to Apple, the US computer firm, or to a combination of the two.

The project likely to emerge will be substantially scaled down from an earlier idea to buy and install as many as 350,000 Apple computers at a cost of about 8 billion francs.

opened some of its restricted zones, including airports, harbours and barracks for public use.

But over the past few years defence appropriation has fallen as a proportion of the total budget. Preliminary reports for 1984 put defence spending at around 18 billion yuan (£5.5 billion).

SPENDING SPREE: China's 1 billion people spent a record amount of money last year and are expected to spend even more this year, the Commerce Ministry said.

Retail sales rose 17 per cent to 300 billion yuan and could go up by nearly 20 per cent this year.

Mugabe opponents on Howe's visiting list

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, flies to Zimbabwe tonight, hoping to meet opponents of the Government, including Mr Joshua Nkomo and Bishop Abel Muzorewa, as well as Mr Robert Mugabe the Prime Minister, and his ministers.

Officials last night were still awaiting a reaction from Mr Mugabe, who has consistently accused Mr Nkomo in particular of backing armed dissidents in Matabeland.

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Relations between Britain and Zimbabwe are now regarded as "very good" after the release just over a year ago of a number of white Air Force officers, who were acquitted on sabotage charges in Harare then re-arrested and detained without trial.

A 55-man British military training team remains in Zimbabwe, helping to re-shape the new Army since independence five years ago. Britain also provided £94 million in aid between 1980 and 1983.

Zimbabwe enjoyed a small surplus of several million pounds in its trade with Britain during 1983 and in the first nine months of last year.

The Namibia question and Britain's relations with South Africa are likely to figure prominently in Sir Geoffrey's talks, not only in Harare but also in Zambia and Kenya, which he will visit next week. It will be his first official visit to each of the three countries.

Sources are ruling out the possibility that Sir Geoffrey will diverge from his scheduled tour to intercede with Unita leaders in Angola for the release of the three Britons captured on Saturday

Quebec English speakers hail court's decision

From John Best Ottawa

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Mr Eric Malvoif, president of Alliance Quebec, an English rights group, said in a statement that the judgment was good "for Quebec and our Quebecers".

The judge found that a section of Bill 101, Quebec's so-called "French-language charter", which says that only French may be used on public signs, contravenes the province's own human rights charter which guarantees freedom of expression.

Transsexual prisoner wants women's jail

Le Grange Kentucky (AP) - An inmate in the process of becoming a female claims she is a "sideshow" at an all-male prison and should be jailed with women, but the warden says she is a man because she has not had any surgery.

M. R. Stevens, who has developed breasts from hormone treatments since 1981, has male genitalia. She said life in the men's prison is hurting her mental health and violating her constitutional rights.

Stevens, aged 25, is serving a 19-month sentence on a forgery conviction and expects to be released in April. She prefers to be called Misty and referred to with feminine pronouns.

She is being held in a private shower in a segregated wing of the prison, but claims she was initially placed in a four-man cell.

She has been supplied with brassieres but is required to wear loose-fitting clothes

Reagan to increase famine aid by \$411m

Washington (Reuters) - President Reagan yesterday pledged an additional \$411 million (£360 million) in aid for Africa's famine victims, bringing total US emergency assistance to the continent this year to \$1 billion.

An official said it meant the US would provide half the three million tonnes of emergency food Africa is estimated to need this year.

Mr Reagan said more would be given under a new policy, "Food for Progress", in which aid would be easier to obtain for governments following more liberal farm practices.

21 beheaded by Peru rebels

Ayacucho (Reuters) - Maoist guerrillas beheaded 21 Indian peasants on New Year's Day in an attempt to wipe out their village self-defence force, a Peruvian Government spokesman said.

The Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels dragged the peasants from their homes in Pampacorico, 120 miles from here, for a summary "trial" and sentenced alleged army collaborators to death.

Grenade kills 16 children

Bangkok (Reuters) - Sixteen Thai children were killed and about 30 injured when a grenade exploded at a school in Fichit province, 220 miles north of here.

The grenade was found by one of the pupils in the school compound and exploded as the child was examining it.

Python power

Davao (Reuters) - A slumbering 14ft python blacked out the business district of this southern Philippines city for three hours after coiling itself round the top of a pylon.

They said it took firemen hours to unwind and bring down the python, which was still alive. The firemen killed it and sliced it into more than 20 pounds (10 kilos) of snake steak.

La Prensa hit

Managua (Reuters) - Nicaragua's opposition daily La Prensa failed to appear on Wednesday because the Government censored most of its material before it was due to go to press, the editor said.

Everest man ill

Tenzing Norgay (above), aged 70, one of the two men who made the first ascent of Everest, is in a Delhi hospital with a lung infection.



Tenzing Norgay (above), aged 70, one of the two men who made the first ascent of Everest, is in a Delhi hospital with a lung infection.

Bhopal march

Delhi (Reuters, AP) - Victims of the Bhopal gas disaster marched through the city accusing the state government of negligence and demanding relief and jobs. In Texas, lawyers filed a \$50 billion suit against Union Carbide.

Stiffer sentence

Jerusalem (Reuters) - The Supreme Court here increased the sentence of a Jewish settler from 18 to 28 months for transporting stolen land mines for an anti-Arab movement in the occupied West Bank.

Fatal feud

Delhi (Reuters) - A dispute over ownership of a tree led to the massacre of 23 villagers in Uttar Pradesh, most of them burnt to death, the Press Trust of India said.

12 more leave

Prague (AP) - Twelve more East Germans left for home yesterday, after spending months in the West German Embassy here. They caught the same train as 17 of their colleagues the previous day.

Banda reshuffle

Litongwe (Reuters) - President Banda of Malawi dissolved his 13-member Cabinet pending an annual reshuffle.

Out of a job

Moroni (Reuters) - The Comoro Islands in the Indian Ocean have abolished the post of Prime Minister after an amendment to the 1978 constitution. The post's functions have been added to those of President Ahmed Abdallah, re-elected last October for another six-year term.

Trial delay

Bonn (AP) - The bribery trial of former Economics Minister Otto Graf Lambsdorff, due to begin next Thursday, has been postponed indefinitely.

AUSTIN ROVER



The new cars:



AUSTIN METRO 5 DOOR



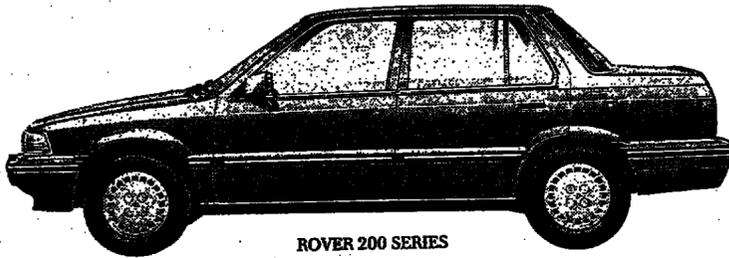
MG MAESTRO 2.0 EFI



AUSTIN MONTEGO



AUSTIN MONTEGO ESTATE



ROVER 200 SERIES

A little less than three years ago, Austin Rover Group was born.

With it came new people. New attitudes. New ideas.

And to show for it, there are now four new ranges of cars, and a new range of vans.

Among these, there are many exciting new prospects for '85:

The best selling Metro, for instance, sports a new interior, new fascia and aerodynamic front end, and it now comes with 5 doors as well as 3. It beats the rest by miles on miles per gallon, too.

Then there's Maestro.

As part of the 1985 range, Maestro adds a 2-litre

fuel injection MG. It does 0-60 in 8.5 seconds, powering to 115 mph* Some family car!

Not to be out-performed, the new 8-car Montego family is joined by five new estate cars - the first British estates with a 7-seat option.

And from Rover comes the new compact 200 series. A breed of Rover that combines traditional values with more than a little panache.

This new high technology company doesn't stop at first class car design. We deliver more.

We deliver low running costs.

Through fuel efficiency, modest service charges and that old-fashioned quality, value for money.

We deliver care.

Today, every Austin Rover car from Mini to Rover, comes complete with "Supercare," the most comprehensive customer care plan in the motor industry. Backed up by the country's largest and most accessible dealer network.

And, just as we are committed to offering the most competitive products, so our dealers are committed to compete hardest for your custom.

All of which means there's never been a better time to visit your Austin Rover dealer.

D.O.T. figs: Metro 1.0 HLE. Simulated urban cycle 48.1 mpg (5.9 L/100 km). Constant 56 mph 67.6 mpg (4.2 L/100 km). Constant 75 mph 46.4 mpg (6.1 L/100 km). *Manufacturer's data.

The company:



Cut-throat world of pirate radio

Despite an official crackdown unlicensed radio stations are as popular as ever. As government plans go ahead to expand community radio David Hewson asks whether it is time to bring the buccaners in from the cold



Pirate radio is usually illegal, frequently unscrupulous in the way it never pays for news or music and totally dismissive of the framework of regulations which control broadcasters who stay on the right side of the law.

But that is not why the commercial broadcasting establishment loathes the pirates. Their real crime is their popularity. Whatever the hazy moral arguments about the pirates' operations, that is one area in which there is no room for doubt. Pirate radio is popular with the British public, very popular indeed.

For proof, look at the fine print of the legal documents served on Radio Jackie, the last remaining, large, land-based pirate, by its new legal commercial rival, Radio Mercury. The current court attempt to shut down the 15-year-old south London pirate has been told virtually that Jackie, in the opinion of the region's listeners, was already the established popular radio station.

The statement of claim served on Tony Collis, Jackie's owner, on behalf of Mercury and the Attorney-General, in a new kind of legal action against the pirates, outlined the particulars of damage to Mercury caused by the pirate.

There were advertisers using Radio Jackie instead of Radio Mercury because of its lower rates and Radio Mercury then being obliged to charge lower rates because of its diminished listening figures. In other words, Jackie is too well-liked for its rival's good.

Mercury's concern is understandable. It is the last in the present wave of small commercial stations to be sanctioned by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and is trying to survive in a difficult financial climate. The IBA recently relaxed the regulations surrounding independent local radio stations to give them commercial freedom. For the tiny number of cash-rich ILR companies, most notably London's Capital, that may mean diversification into publishing or other new fields.

But for the small station the going is rough, and will remain so. Mercury had to go through the IBA's rigorous application procedure to win its franchise. It had to raise £600,000 to meet the authority's legal and technical requirements, and must continue to spend above the odds in order to maintain the IBA-ordered level of programme standards. Its geographical area

interest, such as ethnic groups or the fans of a particular type of music. The idea of a London jazz station, which has an army of backers, would obviously fall into this category.

Talks about these new stations will begin this year, but some of the frequencies needed will not become available until 1990. If at the same time, the existing pirates are forced off the air, no-one will be happier than a small bunch of American DJs currently bobbing up and down in the North Sea about 20 miles off the Essex coast.

Laser 558 is a revived version of the old breed of pirate. Like the 1960s stations, it broadcasts offshore, thereby avoiding the attentions of the DTT's investigators. The originator of the idea, Radio Caroline, is still on the air nearby with less powerful transmitters and a much smaller audience.

In the six months since it started, Laser has won a faithful audience of five million through its medium wave broadcasts of carefully-selected pop based on the American charts. Its boast - "the music is never more than a minute away" - is the key to its style. Laser believes that conventional radio contains too much chat. Its audience, it says, wants music, so the breaks, whether a DJ's voice or an advert, are strictly limited.

The Marine Broadcasting Offences Act bars British advertisers from using Laser, and British companies from supplying them with goods. Laser employees face arrest if they enter Britain, which they frequently do. None has been brought to court so far. The station makes a heavy loss for its owners at the moment although it is unclear who those owners are. A New York firm, Music Media International, handles the sale of advertising. Its president, Roy Lindau, says that Laser's backers are ordinary American investors. Laser is winning a big Continental audience, and hopes to produce a new sort of pan-European advertising. If revenues continue to rise at their present rate, the station should break even towards the end of next year, Lindau claims.

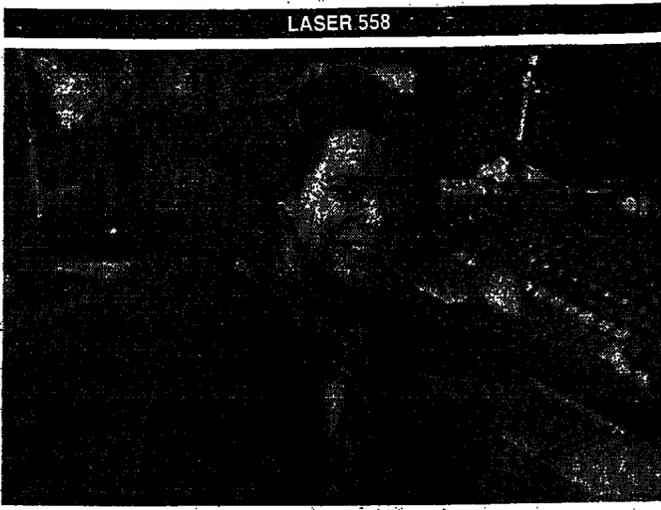
Laser's success has astonished UK stations and, in the long run, could be more worrying than the land-based pirates who are now finally coming under legal control. No action can be taken against the marine station under British law. It may be that the pan-European advertising Laser needs will not emerge. Equally, it would only take one large American advertiser, say Coke or Levi's, to move in with Laser to open up a secure future for several years.

And there are loopholes under which British organizations may become involved. Each week, Laser carries an entertainment guide to London provided by *Time Out*. No money changes hands, says the magazine's owner, Tony Elliott. "They just ring up and ask us what's on and we tell them just as we tell anybody who rings up."

The future of radio? Small, land-based pirates will survive the present climate whatever happens, since it is impractical to track down very low power transmitters which go on air for no more than a few hours a day. The quasi-commercial pirates such as Jackie and KFM will have to give way until the Government's plans for community radio come to fruition. In the meantime, the marine pirate typified by Laser seems certain to come to the fore.

The one consensus which unites the radio business concerns the way in which Britain has regarded the airwaves over the years. It has been consistently argued that the reasons why there should not be a proliferation of radio stations covering a wide range of interests is that there is insufficient room on the radio spectrum.

Even the most conservative observers realise this is nonsense. There are instances of pirates interfering with emergency services, but these are rare. There is plenty of elbow room in the ether to accommodate a wider variety of tastes than the authorities permit at the moment.



Holly Michaels (top), a Laser DJ aboard MV Communicator (above) off the Essex coast



Voice from the land: Bernice Simmonds, a DJ with Radio Jackie in south London

Perils of policing the airwaves

About 140 different pirates were operating a year ago. Legislation has reduced that to a handful, most of them based in the south east.

The radio investigation unit of the Department of Trade, which polices the airwaves, suspects that a number of tiny stations, on the air for a few hours at the weekend, frequently use different names in an attempt to fool those trying to shut down the pirates.

It is the bigger stations, many broadcasting 24 hours a day, building up large numbers of loyal listeners, that have most worried legal commercial radio companies. With the recent closure of KFM in Stockport, their number has dwindled to south London's Radio Jackie, which now faces a legal attempt to close it down.

Intermittent pirates, using mobile transmitters and short broadcasting hours, are notoriously difficult to track down.

By the time the investigation unit has calculated a "fix" on the transmitter's location, the pirates have usually decided to move elsewhere.

But their very transience means that these stations cannot build up large audiences or sell airtime in the organized manner of the big pirates, whose geographical strength used to be Stockport, Shropshire, and London. Now Jackie is their last outpost.

London's ethnic communities continue to produce a number of popular pirate stations. Broadcasts have been made in Greek, Arabic and Hindi, and west London has spawned a couple of reggae stations in which on-air conversation is carried on in Jamaican patois. Confusingly, a number of different operators have used the same name on the air.

The foreign language pirates were purged in October, and are now mainly sporadic in nature. The leading established pirate, London Greek Radio, announced it was closing down in order to apply for a legal community radio licence, but another station, claiming to be LGR, has since come on the air. It is enormously popular with Greek Cypriots and even broadcasts a Cypriot radio soap opera.

Offshore pirate radio stations hold a different status under law. Operating outside British territorial waters, they are not doing anything illegal by transmitting. But a British citizen can be prosecuted if he supplies advertising or goods, and an offshore pirate could be prosecuted if he sets foot on British soil. This has not stopped a stream of Laser 558 DJs visiting discs throughout the country.

Two offshore pirates are now working in international waters off Essex - Laser and the 17-year-old Radio Caroline, which continues to be Irish-owned.

because this was the pre-match warm-up. "Micky Thomas, Micky Thomas. There's only one Micky Thomas," sang the crowd.

I was glad to hear this. Micky Thomas started out playing for Wrexham, my home town. So did two other Chelsea players, Jones and Niedzwiedzki. In fact, John Neal the Chelsea manager used to manage Wrexham.

In fact, that's why I'd come to see Chelsea - it was probably the nearest I could get to seeing Wrexham, now languishing listlessly at the bottom of Division Four - and why I'd asked Tim, who is 18 and thus knows more about football than I do, to take me.

Then the game started. There's little to report about it except that Manchester United won convincingly 3-1.

"Next time I'd shout for Chelsea if I were you," said Tim. "Didn't I?"

"No. You kept shouting 'Come on Wrexham!'"

A series reporting on research: PUBLIC OPINION

Taking offence

An Ophion Research Corporation study in America of those who have taken offence either at a television programme, or specific advertisements, reports that 10 per cent of Americans said they subsequently stopped buying the product advertised. Eight per cent said they had changed to a different brand. Seven per cent refused to try a product, five per cent wrote a letter to a station or network and another five advised a friend or relative to stop using the product.

Among those who stopped buying a product, the commonest reason given was that the product itself and its advertisement gave offence. At 34 per cent, the content of the advertisement was twice as likely to offend as the content of the programme itself, at 17 per cent.

Along the fold

Having broken the finding 'You're not around the map, dear?'

Some say the worst thing about touring is folding the road map. A survey in Germany by the Allensbach Institute asked about this common holiday problem: "When you want to fold up a map or street plan as it originally was, do you generally find it easy, or not?"

The Germans split half and half with 42 per cent saying it was generally easy and 45 per cent saying it was not. The other 13 per cent said "it depends", had "no opinion" or commented on the silliness of the question. Interestingly, 51 per cent of men said it was "generally easy" (as opposed to 40 per cent who disagreed) while only 33 per cent of women thought so, with 49 per cent saying they had difficulty. Who folds up the map in your family?

Loaded questions

There is a phenomenon well-known to public opinion researchers called "yes-saying". This is the tendency people have to agree with favourable statements and not to disagree with negative ones.

Another trap for the unwary opinion researcher is known as the "order effect". In a recent article in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, entitled "Context and Contiguity in Survey Questionnaires", Howard Schuman, Graham Kolten and Jacob Ludwig report quite a marked effect from the order on which they asked a pair of questions concerning Communist and American reporters.

They asked first: "Do you think the United States should let Communist newspaper reporters from other countries in here and send back to their papers the news as they see it?" and followed by the question: "Do you think a Communist country like Russia should let American newspaper reporters come in and send back to America the news as they see it?"

When asked in that order 44 per cent of the American public said yes to the Communist reporter question. Using a split-sample or split-ballot technique - that is asking the Communist question first with half the sample and the American first with the other half - putting the American question first turned the percentage agreeing that Communist reporters should be allowed to come to America to 79 per cent, a swing of 35 percentage points.

Moral outlooks

In Europe at the Crossroads: Jean Stoetzel reports on moral values held by Europeans. Looking at the scale of permissiveness in the 1981 European Social Values Study he finds a systematic structure of attitudes among certain groups.

The most permissive groups are the young, and more highly educated, those who are left-wing and those who do not believe in God. From one group to another the researchers found the same themes indicating greater permissiveness - sex under the legal age of consent, homosexuality and drug-taking. Those on the left add fighting with the police, and the people

who do not profess belief in God tend more to favour abortion and adultery.

Britain is about midway in its level of permissiveness in Europe. The most permissive country is France, followed closely by Holland, the least permissive Italy. By a long way, the most straight-laced is Ireland. More surprising correlations were found by looking at home-owners and income. Whatever their income, non-home-owners are more progressive and permissive in moral attitudes while home-owners are more strict and traditional, but the more income a home-owner has, the more permissive and progressive he becomes. The lower a non-home-owner's income, the more strict and traditionalist he is.

France and Holland may be the most permissive but they are at opposite ends of the scale in trusting one another. In France 71 per cent and in Italy 72 per cent believe people cannot be trusted, while they cannot trust one another in only two countries - Holland (49 per cent) and Denmark (44 per cent). Only one in twenty Frenchmen believe people are fundamentally good.

There now follows

A decade ago, in the run-up to the 1974 general election, party political broadcasts were shown simultaneously on all television channels. Before the 1979 election the Tories broadcast their party political broadcasts at different times. Labour and the Liberals soon followed suit. The effect of this was to reduce the viewing of party political broadcasts from 20 per cent share of the audience to around 13 per cent.

Unlike Britain, American political advertising isn't confined to party political broadcasting. The well-heeled politician can buy an almost infinite amount of advertising time on radio and television and sing his jingle, dance his jig, slang his opponent or otherwise communicate to the electorate in any way he or she sees fit.

Priority stakes

More than two-thirds of companies recently surveyed in a poll by MORI for Ingersoll Engineers place high priority on the need to control inventory and work-in-progress in their financial management. But when these same firms plan new production investment they give less importance to these two key areas with only about one third placing a very high priority on them.

The clear implication is that while industry understands the merits of tight inventory control it does not know - or is not prepared to find out - what steps to take to implement action and achieve results.

The line in cable watching

...Yeah - and I've even got cable TV in my car.

According to an ORC poll among those subscribing to cable television in America nearly everyone (96 per cent) watches the three major networks as well as cable. Eighty-two per cent also watch basic cable, 49 per cent local or independent channels, 45 per cent premium pay cable showing first-run films or live sporting events.

As a percentage of time spent watching each category, nearly half the time of cable viewers is spent watching the three major networks, ABC, CBS and NBC; a quarter (26 per cent) is spent watching their basic cable channel, 14 per cent their premium-paid channel and 6 per cent each their local independent channels and public television.

Robert M. Worcester

The author is Chairman of MORI. Details of fieldwork dates and sample sizes are reported in *British Public Opinion Newsletter*, published by the firm.

Tomorrow
START THE WEEKEND WITH THE PAPER THAT INFORMS, STIMULATES, AMUSES AND PROVOKES

Portfolio £22,000 to be won

Selling sail for the Boat Show

Anchors away: Ronald Faux at the Boat Show

Times presents: Commemorative bicentenary gifts

Tens and units: 1984s Top 10 Unit Trusts

Kicking off: FA Cup Third Round preview

PLUS: News from home and abroad; Travel goes to faraway places; mortgage prospects in 1985; Gardening; Bridge; Chess and the Prize Crossword.

Can you always get your copy of The Times?

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of The Times

Name.....

Address.....

moreover... Miles Kington

minutes before the match began and pre-match entertainment tends to come from the crowd rather than the pitch - the Chelsea Shed likes to gather early to practice their singing.

"Think I ought to join in with the singing, Tim?"

"Right."

One song I especially liked went something like: "We love you, Chelsea, we love you, we love you, Chelsea, we do, yes, we love you, Chelsea, yes, we do."

I may have missed out a few words, but that's the general gist. It was the only song I heard all afternoon without a four-letter word. The appearance of television cameras was greeted with another song entitled: "Can you Hear us on The Box?", interspersed with cries of "Hello, mum!" Football fans are all strangely convinced that their dear old mothers will switch on their tellys just to see their sons in the crowd.

With only 40 minutes to go I had already read the programme five times. Half the programme was devoted to rejecting criticism of Chelsea supporters; the other half was devoted to criticising Chelsea supporters for their behaviour at the last game. They had, apparently, jeered Chelsea for not winning.

But all this was forgotten when Chelsea finally ran out on the pitch and the fans cheered their wildly. And how superbly Chelsea performed! They passed, and sprinted, and shot unerringly, and the goalkeeper made fantastic saves, and everyone played like a genius, and the crowd loved them! They were wonderful!

Then Chelsea went back indoors again and it was still 15 minutes to go to the game,

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 535)

ACROSS

1 Tight necktie (6)
5 Not secure (6)
6 Grass blades (3)
9 Litter call (6)
10 Weak (6)
11 Legend (4)
12 Liturgical response (8)
14 Throw again (6)
17 Flag (6)
19 Clock-controlled explosive (8)
22 Similar (4)
24 Inert gas (6)
25 Cowardly (6)
26 45 inches (5)
27 Dam (6)
28 Regularly (6)

DOWN

2 Weighty (5)
3 Hindu deity (7)
4 Fort bank (7)
5 Not appropriate (5)
6 Dormancy (5)
7 Decline (4,3)
13 TV body (1,1,1)
15 Distinguished (7)
16 Weep (3)
17 Room section (7)
18 Free (7)
20 Kit out (5)
21 Lubricated (5)
23 Funeral (5)

ANSWERS TO No 534

ACROSS: 8 Innuendo 9 IRA 10 Diabetics 11 Stern 13 Sarreal
16 Edmund 18 Magna 22 Sontag 24 Gog 25 German measles
DOWN: 1 Limits 2 Sine 3 Laudatum 4 Essays 5 Ague 6 Incite
7 Vestal 12 Tax 14 Remedia 15 Aim 16 Ensign 17 Hungry
18 Dynamo 20 Goggle 21 Argosy 23 Alas

FRIDAY PAGE

Young upholders of an eccentric tradition

Capricious, anomalous and not conforming to common rules of behaviour, eccentrics are rare by definition. Young Fogeys have replaced punks; pop-stars advocate moderation; the Princess of Wales, the face that launched a thousand snips, has grown her hair and is now indistinguishable from Princess Michael of Kent. We daily await the dreadfully glorious news that Miss Barbara Cartland has lost faith in the twin powers of love and honey, that the Bishop of Durham has come round to the Virgin Birth and that Auberon Waugh has joined the SDP. The great English gentleman, Dr Johnson, was not only a genius of prodigious wit, learning and courage but one who delighted in rolling down steep hills before his friends. From Boudicca to Lady Hester Stanhope, from Lord Berners to George Bernard Shaw, our past is filled with those as renowned for their quiddities and quixotries as for any other virtue. Perhaps the example set by these six young eccentrics, who spoke to AMANDA CRAIG, may spark a wave of harmless abnormalities in what has been a generation remarkable only for its utter lack of distinction.



Libby Mellon: 'I suspect I was either Boudicca or Elizabeth I'

Photographs by PETE ADDIS

Past lives and strange encounters

LIBBY MELLON: A legendary figure at Cambridge where she had a St Valentine's Day party for the 40 Most Beautiful Men (with herself as the only woman) and stood for the Union in a devastatingly-transparent black lace dress, art historian Libby now works for Art for Offices near her home in Wapping.

"I'm not at all afraid to speak to strangers, which leaves me open to adventures", she says. "I believe in the recycling of everything, including past lives. I suspect I was either Boudicca or Elizabeth I. I once

THE ROMANTIC

answered an advertisement to find out what I could have been. It was very disappointing. All I had to do was go to a house in Earls Court, get undressed, lie in a dark room in a warm bath and then come out and tell this man what I felt like. Unfortunately he was recalled to America in rather a hurry so I never learnt his conclusions.

Tall and beautiful, with a mass of auburn hair, Libby is steeped in Pre-Raphaelitism and recently posed for

the photographer Nancy Webber in a re-creation of Rossetti's "Proserpine". Her dress is marginally less exotic, being a mixture of Jaeger, Oxfam ("I love wearing saris") and the Salvation Army.

"I'm a romantic and have dedicated my life to helping artists. There's enormous scope for commissioning original art for public places. People need art to stimulate their minds and relieve their eyes. I think this Government is absolutely wicked not to give artists more incentives and commissions."



Carr: 'My family all think each other perfectly barmy'

A man who paints life larger than it really is

THE ARTIST

MATTHEW CARR: Tall, with long hair and attired in his favourite Turkish trousers, Matthew, 31, has lived a Chattertonesque life in which his prodigious talent as an artist has only recently become recognized.

"It's silly to cultivate poverty - mine was enforced by not wanting to paint portraits. Portrait-painting is a very dangerous groove. You can be a thoroughly bad painter but make a lot of money. I gave it up after a commission to paint the wife of the Mexican Ambassador to Paris, Carlo Fuentes, who insisted on seeing my painting in half to get it out of the embassy door. After that I only did drawings of nudes - mostly men, as they don't come out in psychosomatic rashes on taking their clothes off."

He has just finished painting his father, Raymond Carr, on his retirement as Master of St Anthony's, Oxford. It is the biggest official portrait since those of the 18th century. "My paintings have become bigger and bigger. I started off wanting to do everything life-size, but became fascinated by the space around figures. My father's portrait measures 20ft by 15ft. It breaks most of the conventions of portrait painting while still remaining figurative. My father was so embarrassed by it he went off to China.

"My family all think each other perfectly barmy, with the exception of themselves. When I was young I was endlessly breaking my bones - arms, legs, and back - which meant that I spent a lot of time in bed. I think that's how most eccentricities start.

"There's a fine line between lunacy and eccentricity which I wouldn't care to cross. I don't believe in making my behaviour, work or appearance fit into the accepted patterns of normality. My favourite authors, Trollope and Balzac, are like my favourite painters Velasquez and Manet, unafraid of the grand scale."

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Skiers, mind the bends



The late start to the skiing season gives another chance for pre-holiday exercises for those who think they can compensate for a slothful year with 10 violent days on the slopes. Dr Michael Hutson, a specialist in sports medicine in Nottingham and London, told *The Times* that the relatively unfit young skier, and all those who are middle-aged or older, should train before going for a winter sports holiday.

The ideal preparation for skiing is regular exercise throughout the year culminating in a spell on a dry ski slope. Statistics show that the improvement in technique which the ski slope provides makes for greater enjoyment of the holiday and reduces the chance of injury.

Skiing strains the musculo-skeletal system of the low back, the lower limbs and the shoulders. Any specific exercise should be designed to help these areas develop. Bicycling is particularly useful as it tones up the powerful thigh muscles. Swimming and running up stairs also help - but all these exercise regimes should be introduced gradually.

Jogging is helpful if the holidaymaker is an habitual jogger, but dangerous for the middle-aged male if undertaken only occasionally. Pull-ups and press-ups are beneficial and should be done throughout the year.

Dr Hutson says doctors are frequently asked by patients if they are fit to ski. Knees, shoulders, backs and hearts are the problem areas. Knees are particularly vulnerable; injuries often affect the ligament along the inner surface of the joint, the medial collateral ligament, and more rarely the cartilage inside the joint is torn.

Existing knee joint disease, frequently osteoarthritis, can be assessed by asking the patient to squat into the knee-ful-bent position of National Service days. If he, or she, is able to squat, or half-squat, and then rise without discomfort or pain, the knees are satisfactory for skiing. If they are painful the winter holiday should be in the West Indies rather than Switzerland.

Ustable backs present a special problem. Skiing will test discs, not only when upright, but as a result of falls. The patient will have to make up his or her own mind whether the risk is worth the pleasure of the holiday.

Patients with established shoulder disease should know the holiday will make their problems worse.

Dr Hutson is even more firm about cardiac disease. In his view exercise at the altitudes involved makes skiing an unwise choice of holiday for people with known coronary heart disease.

strong desire to suffer as Christ suffered. When bleeding occurred it was associated with an ecstatic vision and often happened on a Friday.

There is no ready explanation. In at least one case self-injury could be excluded as the limb was sealed. Other suggestions include ectopic menstruation, dermatographia (an exaggerated response of the skin to scratching or touching), or autoerythrocyte sensitization syndrome, a rare disease in which women become sensitized to their own blood cells.

These patients, like those with stigmata, have a psychiatric history and tell a similar story of areas of their body becoming painful and bruised. It seems that stigmata are now usually considered as hysterical conversion symptoms but, in Dr Simpson's view, this is merely substituting one poorly understood diagnosis, stigmata, with another equally little understood state, conversion hysteria.

Pints of advice

Professor John Pattison, a microbiologist with special interest in rubella, German measles, had an excuse to celebrate the New Year with a pint or two of Abbot Ale. His local brewery is supporting the national campaign to achieve higher levels of rubella immunization by printing beer mats advising women of the risk their future children face if they fail to have the injection before becoming pregnant. The usual syndrome affecting children is

RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES)

A DANGER TO YOUR FUTURE FAMILY? THE RISK OF RUBELLA (GERMAN MEASLES) DURING PREGNANCY. IT CAN CAUSE DEAFNESS, BLINDNESS, AND MENTAL DEFECTS. ANY WOMAN WHO HAS NOT HAD RUBELLA SHOULD GET IMMUNIZED AS AT THE FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC.



Beer mat with a message

congenital heart disease, deafness and/or blindness.

Professor Pattison said the national response to the campaign has been patchy but the intention is that all girls between the ages of 11 and 14 should be immunized; some of those who missed injections will be traced at family planning clinics, all women at antenatal clinics. If the patient is pregnant nothing can be done to protect that particular unborn baby, although immunization after delivery will help subsequent children.

Blood dilemma

On Christmas Eve Gary Llewellyn, a 20-year-old Norwich man, had a motor cycle accident. The injuries, a compound fracture of the leg and a lacerated liver, are of a type frequently seen in casualty departments. He was expected to be transfused, taken to theatre and in time return home as good as new, but Gary was a Jehovah's Witness and steadfastly refused blood, although he did accept blood substitutes.

Fractured bones bleed profusely and although the substitutes maintained the correct volume, they were unable to transport oxygen so that, despite attempts to avert disaster the patient's life ebbed away.

That there is no substitute for blood is emphasized by Sir Ian Fraser, writing in the *British Medical Journal* on the Sicily landings. During this action plasma was readily available, but no blood. One of Sir Ian's patients, a commando with both legs shattered, had five pints of plasma but was resuscitated only when one of the surgical team gave his own blood.

Palm puzzle

In a section of the Christmas issue of the *British Medical Journal* devoted to religion and medicine, Dr C. J. Simpson of St George's Hospital analyses hundreds of cases in which patients have demonstrated stigmata, the appearance on the hands, feet and flanks of bleeding sores at the sites of Christ's wounds on the Cross. He notices that in the majority of cases women of reproductive age are involved; in one series the ratio of women to men was 280 to 41.

Most of the sufferers seemed to have had a rather odd personality before the phenomena developed, and later had a

Puffs of peril in the circus

As humans replace animals in circuses, fire-eating may soon become as common as the village green as it is on the Rue Saint Benoit. Although Mr. Gerry Cottle assured *The Times* that fire-eating, provided the performer watches for sudden draughts or changes in wind direction, was comparatively easy to learn, Swedish doctors have recently

Dr Thomas Stuttgartford

Snake and potato salad

THE BOHEMIAN

CHARLOTTE FABER: Painter, inventor of the fabulous "diseased Arans" and jewellery. Lambeth-based designer Charlotte, 26, has had a career ranging from freelance cooking ("I put a dead adder in the potato salad to show the children of this family in Scotland what one looked like") to selling in a department store before realizing her true bent.

"With a name like Faber it seemed such a waste not to make jewellery. This (a ring of blue glass surrounded by bits of wire) is the Princess of Wales's engagement ring after it's fallen through the waste disposal unit.

"I dress how I like, in whatever I think adds life, I like bad taste. It's terribly charming. People who have gnomes in their garden are so witty, don't you think? I hated art school. I was always having fights with teachers because they wanted everyone to paint the same hideous still life of red teapots or things that would be hideous even if one painted them absolutely beautifully.

The idea for the "diseased Arans", which use pink lime, magenta and blue wools in the traditional Aran pattern, came to her as she froze



Charlotte Faber: 'I like bad taste. It's terribly charming'

through a winter in Norfolk.

"I thought, why not put colour into them?" she says. "It's so depressing to see nothing but off-white. I love colour and asymmetry, though most grown-ups hate it. You should hear the comments of women shopping in Liberty's when they come across my stuff. But every one is unique, which is why they come as much as an abstract painting. My great hero is

Picasso, whom I love for his wit and energy and for taking old bits of metal and showing people how wonderful they look.

"I never know whether people mean it as a compliment or an insult when they say I'm eccentric. Perhaps it's because I mix colours in a different way, or have given up hiding what I think about people - as long as it's not too rude."

Flowers and monsters

THE WRITER

CRAIG BROWN: The author of the hilarious *Marsh-Marlowe Letters* divides his time between gregariousness in London (he writes the *Bystander* pages for *Tatler*) and misanthropy in Suffolk, where he owns half a cottage. Close friends firmly believe he has provided the inspiration for several Beckett plays because the owner of the other half is the actress Billie Whitelaw (Beckett's great actress interpreter) who overlooks her neighbour's swampy garden, complete with its Edwardian railway carriage where Mr Brown is working on his next oeuvre, *How To Hate A Beginner's Book*.

Inside Mr Brown's house you step over a pile of 250 brown envelopes ("I don't open anything which might be bad news"), and crunch over an expanse of clockwork monsters. "I've cut down on the toys", he says slyly. "But I do wind up a few now and then.

"What I'm really pleased about is acquiring a suitcase of Tommy Cooper's fake flowers at a Christie's auction."

Craig Brown loves bad books.

Pink with everything

THE EXHIBITIONIST

SILVIA ZIRANEK: Poet, philosopher, existentialist cook, Friend to All and Lover of Animals. Silvia answers the doorbell at her Archway home ("It plays 76 variations of the Wedding March") wearing a bright pink tam-o-shanter constructed out of nylon fur, two pink Christmas baubles and a smock which defies description.

"I make all my clothes myself. They are quite timeless", she says magnificently, leading the way to her flat. Everything, including her motorbike, is painted pink. "It's the only colour I really like."

On the point of departing for a tour of Australia funded by the British Council, unmarried Miss Ziraneck is about to become famous "for obvious reasons". Born in Chelsea, she had a brief spell reading Arabic and Russian at Leeds University before deciding that this and "painting wilting watercolours in penumbral attics" was not her metier. While an obsession with fuchsia was colouring her life, she began to work on a series of existentialist recipes, entitled *Cooking with G*D*.

Poultry and the Crimea

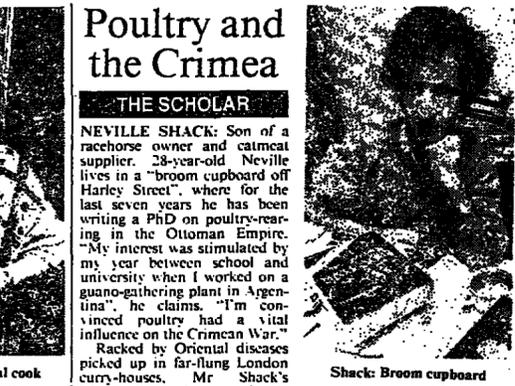
THE SCHOLAR

NEVILLE SHACK: Son of a racehorse owner and catmeat supplier. 28-year-old Neville lives in a "broom cupboard off Harley Street", where for the last seven years he has been writing a PhD on poultry-rearing in the Ottoman Empire.

"My interest was stimulated by my year between school and university when I worked on a guano-gathering plant in Argentina", he claims. "I'm convinced poultry had a vital influence on the Crimean War."

Racked by Oriental diseases picked up in far-flung London curry-houses, Mr Shack's labours have been variously interrupted by work as a hotel washer-up and a telephone trineer. "For the latter I had to sign the Official Secrets Act so I can't tell you about any of the conversations I listened in on. I did most of it in bathing trunks, as switchboards are invariably next to boilers.

"Everyone has a hidden or apparent stock of oddities, depending on the strength of their imagination and the degree to which they offend people. I don't think Screaming



Shack: Broom cupboard

Lord Sutch is eccentric - in fact, his campaigns are rather conventional - but I do find someone who commutes very peculiar."

Dilettante Mr Shack is denied any hobbies beyond those of contributing to the *Times Literary Supplement* and *The Spectator*. His preferred reading is *Spare Rib*, *Sanity* and *Anglia Carter*.

"My greatest ambition is to remake the film *Summer Holiday* with Cliff Richard" he says.

Turbulent women the Church cannot tame

Question: *When is a vocation to the priesthood not a vocation?*
Answer: *When you are a woman?*

This riddle, much recited in Church of England circles, could at last become outdated if the General Synod carries through its stated intention of finally allowing women to become full members of the clergy. Last month women won a notable victory when by a decent majority in all three Houses - Bishops, Clergy and Laity - it was voted to bring to an end the exclusion of women.

The vote has given a boost to a collection of churchwomen who want an end to their anomalous and humiliating position on the ecclesiastical fringes.

There are some 500 ordained Church of England deaconesses in England and Scotland and the number is rising rapidly. Trained and ordained with

men deacons, they are nevertheless not considered to be in Holy Orders. They can preach, take services, baptize, bury and be in charge of a parish, but they are not regarded as apprentice to a vicar and, unlike a deacon who can consider himself as serving his time before ordination into the priesthood, they can never expect to perform a marriage, give absolution, a full blessing or celebrate Holy Communion.

There are 619 ordained women priests in the Churches of the Anglican Communion. Kenya, Canada, America and New Zealand all have women priests. Scotland and England are among the very small minority to hold out.

The absurdity is perhaps most visible with deaconesses who have their own parishes. Diana McClatchey, an Oxford graduate and author of a research paper on the Oxfordshire clergy of the 18th

and 19th centuries, has spent four years with her congregation of about a hundred people in a Worcestershire village.

She has baptized their babies, sat by their sickbeds and conducted their funerals. But she has never been able to bless them, having power only to will God to give His blessing, not give it in His name herself. "You deal in images that are male, language that is male", she says. "The more conscious of it you become, the more it irritates."

Deaconesses are very clear as to the benefits of allowing women into the full church. They talk about balance, about a new interpretation of the scriptures, a change in the symbolism of the priesthood and a church that will no longer be "a one-parent family". The latter graphic phrase comes from forthright deaconess Barbara Scales who works as a hospital chaplain in

Carshalton, Surrey, and who, because she is a woman, is known only as a "co-ordinating chaplain".

"A church claiming to be the body of Christ must be related in a real and organic way to society", says Diana McClatchey. "This is not true of the Church of England and Britain in the 1980s. There are tensions between being a woman and a Christian."

Where does the opposition to women come from? Not, it seems, from theology, not from C of E churchgoers.

Reluctance to admit women comes, it now appears, from the priests. As last month's notable victory was won, ominous words came from Father Peter Geldard, General Secretary of the Church Union: "We may have lost a battle but we are very far from losing the war."

Caroline Moorehead

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Philip Norman

Manhattan myths exploded

A year and a half of New York living has constantly shown me how gross were my misconceptions about it all the times I saw the city as a wide-eyed visitor. Some day I will collate an alternative guide-book from the notes (and furious exclamations) that chart the loss of my illusions. Meanwhile - as a solace for those at present unable to brave the horrible exchange rate - I offer some footnotes to the larger myths of Manhattan.

In New York everything happens fast. America is among the slowest, most bureaucratic nations on earth. In New York that slowness is intensified by fear and suspicion. Basically, every shopper is treated as a potential thief. On entering most stores, you must register your bag or briefcase with a guard. Often you must ring a bell or buzzer to enter and leave. Buying anything in a department store takes inordinate time and effort, owing to cash registers that wheeze and chatter interminably to themselves. Production of a chequebook induces the same trauma as a crucifix in Transylvania.

Over population is another chronic cause of delay. A average restaurant meal is a ritual involving five rigidly dedicated attendants: the "hostess", the "captain", the waiter, the sommelier and the "bus boy". All will usually have disappeared by the time you want to pay and go.

The streets are dangerous. They are - but not as visitors expect, because of muggers. They are dangerous because air-conditioning units fall off 20th-storey windowsills, construction cranes topple over, cyclists go through red traffic lights in the wrong direction, the pavements are scarred and pitted like elephant traps and nobody looks where he is going. Vigilance spent guarding one's valuables is better exercised in taking care not to fall off a kerb edge and break a leg. In Britain we worry about wearing clean underwear in case we suddenly have to go to hospital. In New York, rather worry you hold enough credit cards to make it worth a doctor's while to save your life.

New York is an all-night city. Away from Times Square and parts of Greenwich Village, New York after midnight is mostly battered-down, steed-capped and burglar-alarmed. The only true 24-hour phenomena are the half-nude streetwalkers on Park Avenue South, and the Korean greengrocers who, as a rule, speak only one English phrase: "Twenty dollars, please."

You cannot use the New York subway. You can, provided you close your eyes to the graffiti and your nostrils to the smell, provided you avoid eye contact with the many commuting beggars, provided you do not ride after midnight and make sure you get off well before 125th Street, where Harlem begins in earnest. The trains are wonderfully quick - especially the non-stop expresses - and are, in fairness, not that much dirtier than taxis. An unexpected plus is the presence of smart-uniformed, helpful guards. Since the system has no logic and maps, if not obliterated, are baffling to read, I recommend the No 6 Lexington Avenue local as suitable for most English people's journeys up or downtown, and the "N" train ditto, because for some reason "N" trains are always cleaner.

New York is a city of miraculous technology. Especially the bathrooms. The bath in our apartment is too small to lie in, and empties by means of an archaic column and plunger device which, I believe,

disappeared even from British seaside boarding houses before the Great War. Showers may be equipped with fine tuning controls worthy of interstellar travel, but they still dispense only two temperatures, freezing or scalding. Most electrical wiring looks wickedly dangerous. The city that perfected the dry Martini has yet to invent a serviceable umbrella or lavatory paper that does not auto-destruct on contact.

New Yorkers' wit is dry, quick and caustic. New York wit has become virtually extinct through dependence on psycho-analysis, and the changing phobias about cholesterol, caffeine, sodium and salt. Products should carry an additional label: "Guaranteed not to contain irony."

Reading *The New Yorker*, like *Punch*, introduces only a fretful melancholia. Humour comes best in its unconscious forms, like the listening device currently advertised under the name "Little Buzzer", or the TV announcer who recently said: "This dramatized life of Pope John Paul the Second is brought to you by Xerox."

All New Yorkers are rude. They are until you expect them to be; then they suddenly become old worldly polite. In a chaotic jeans-and-sneaker store recently, I stormed up to a young black assistant and asked heatedly where I was supposed to pay for my purchase. "Sir," he replied, "it would be better for you to wait over there for a moment."

New York is a city of fierce egalitarianism. You will never see so many butlers, maids, doormen and uniformed blunkeys of every type. The gulf between rich and poor and the indifference of the former towards the latter recalls such Third World cities as Bombay, Jakarta and Bogota. The human debris commonly to be seen on smart Fifth Avenue recently inspired Tiffany's the jewellers to a little joke. They filled their windows with dummies dressed as female derelicts and draped in Tiffany jewels.

New York wages are stupendously high. I heard a girl cashier in a Lexington Avenue supermarket tell a colleague that her wage was \$1.50 an hour. The publisher's copy editor whose rewriting accounted largely for the success of a current multi-million dollar grossing book, earns \$16,000 a year. Employees in service industries frequently end up paying their bosses because of the practice of making workers financially responsible for their merchandise. A Post Office clerk, refusing to take my cheque, explained: "If it bounces, I'll have to pay the amount out of my own pocket."

New York has the best Chinese laundries in the world. During these 18 months, my worst New York battles so far have been with laundresses named Cheng, Chang, Ang, Lee, Yee and Loy. I have stood in steamy, subterranean cockpits all over Chinatown and Yorkville, screaming at men in white underpants (the usual Chinese laundress' garb) or at impenetrable cronies, the same historical, fruitless words, "No starch!" When you come to New York, call me and I'll show you my collection of free-standing shirts.

New Yorkers are upfront. They say what they mean. They tell it like it is. My experience of corporate life here has given me the idea of rewriting Shakespeare's plays in New York dialogue. In *Julius Caesar*, just as the assassins surround their prey, someone will be heard to say: "We want you to know, Julius, we really love your work."

Philip Howard

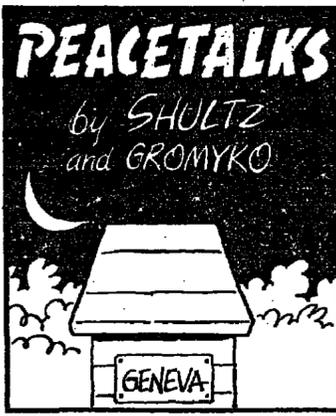
Names to launch a thousand slips

What's in a name? If that is not a rhetorical question, but expects an answer, the answer is: quite a lot. That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet, I suppose; but I would not bet on it if it were called onion, or ragwort, or polyunsaturated fat. Naming a child is a dangerous leap into the future. We all know aggressive small boys who rampage to live up to the wildly unsuitable name of Jason, and dumpy little girls who are still shocked to find themselves called Helen in a world that expects its Helens to be tall and beautiful. Was this the face that launched a thousand ships? No wonder there are braces on her teeth and keel-marks on her hips.

As a matter of fact, the world is quite wrong in its expectations of Helen and Jason. The wide diffusion of Helen as a name is not due to the fame of the frisky queen of Menelaus, who was so divinely beautiful that even the old man of Troy reckoned that it was worth having fought a war for 10 years over her. Helens are far more likely to have been named after Helena the mother of the Emperor Constantine; she is said to have been British, the daughter of a British king, the Old King Cole of the nursery rhyme. Helena was a popular name in the Celtic countries, particularly Wales, from a very early date, and no fewer than 135 churches in Great Britain are dedicated to her. The historians are divided to her. The historians are divided to her. The historians are divided to her. The historians are divided to her.

Beauty lies in the ears of the nomenclator, and in the context. Antigone is one of the most beautiful names in Greek, because of the metre against the iambic, and the connotations. But it would be a mistake in English. I think that the best bet is to stick to plain, common names, preferably with a family tradition, unless you are determined to fly a kite on behalf of your unfortunate infant, who cannot speak for herself, and to resign yourself to the fact that whatever you choose, as in so many other matters, you are not going to be thanked for it.

Arms control: Lawrence Freedman outlines the Geneva agenda



THE TIMES DIARY

Sour and Sweeting

Robert Sweeting, who runs the Tynes Tees Printing Service in Hartlepool, yesterday admitted placing advertisements in local papers for the working miners' £2.50 "certificates of courage." It was thought the certificates - apparently tatty cards stating: "You worked during the 1984 dispute when 90 per cent of the NUM were on strike" - were a ruse to discover the identities of working miners while raising money for strike funds. Though the ads, which Sweeting placed twice in the *Manfield and Sutton Recorder*, said the £2.50 cheques or postal orders should be sent to 10 Tower Street in Hartlepool - the address of Tynes Tees Printing - Sweeting says he did not print the cards, and placed them for a "loose acquaintance" called John Morgan. No, he does not have an address or telephone number for John Morgan. "I only see him every five or six years," Sweeting would say nothing to clear up the mystery. "It's not wise to say too much because in this part of the world you get your windows broken."

Choice!

The Consumers' Association, publishers of *Which?* can get no satisfaction. Yesterday its staff began a work-to-rule in pursuit of union recognition. As one union official put it: "It's extraordinary that an organization which campaigns for the consumer is refusing to allow its staff the choice of being represented and recognized by a trade union." So who do they complain to now?

Although the Mitterrand government abolished capital punishment three years ago, I am told the state-owned Air France has just announced plans to install "electric chairs" on long-distance flights "for the greater convenience of first-class passengers."

All change

Amid mounting speculation about Nicholas Ridley's precarious position as Transport Secretary, his department appears to be on the defensive over his proposed bus privatization bill. In a letter leaked to the *Diary*, Ridley's under-secretary, David Mitchell, has written to MPs saying: "Not surprisingly many operators, their representative organisations and a number of Councilors - particularly those with municipal bus undertakings - are agitating against our proposals. . . . He goes on: "I will try to reply personally more quickly than I would normally" to those who wish to respond to opposing press reports or letters in local newspapers. His letter is unlikely to cut much ice with shire Tories planning a backbench revolt because they fear the bill could kill rural constituencies' remaining bus services.

BARRY FANTONI



"At least the pound stayed low"

Swiss role

I have clearly underrated Lady Olga Maitland. The first edition of *Deter*, a magazine published by her Women and Families for Defence group, carries a ringing endorsement of her by President Reagan, no less. "Dear Lady Olga: I am writing this on Air Force One somewhere over the Atlantic as we leave England and the Summit meetings," it begins. Reagan goes on to praise "the good and tireless work you are doing to ensure that the voice of the majority is heard . . . in Britain". On cue, Lady O rings to tell me that she has meetings with both superpower delegations at the Geneva arms talks next week. "There's a good chance I'll see George Shultz. He knows all about me," she says. So, no doubt, will Mr Gromyko by the time the talks are over.

No Comment?

Who have the Conservative whips selected to present the Channel 4 *Comment* programme next Wednesday? None other than Jeremy Hanley, the Richmond and Barnes MP who has presented no fewer than 11 of the last 12 slots allocated to the Tories. That Hanley has a majority of just 74, the third smallest in the country, has not gone unnoticed by the Liberals, whose chief whip, Alan Beith, is to protest about all this free exposure. Also unhappy is C4's commissioning editor for current affairs, Liz Forgan, who might feel obliged to drop party political *Comments* altogether unless she can persuade the Tory whips to use other presenters. Unhappy of all, however, is Alan Watson, Hanley's Liberal opponent in Richmond, Watson, a former presenter of *Panorama* and *The Money Programme*, was told by the BBC to give up all on-screen work when he announced he was going into politics.

PHS

The arms control talks that will be inaugurated with the meeting in Geneva on Monday of the US Secretary of State, George Shultz, and the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Gromyko, have been advertised as a truly fresh start. The whole effort will apparently be unencumbered by the dead weight of the past 15 years of largely futile negotiations.

But this dead weight cannot be jettisoned so easily. The main issues on the agenda have not changed dramatically, nor are there many new ideas around to deal with many of the technical difficulties that dog all negotiations in this area. More seriously, past experience has led many American conservatives to argue that arms control is a snare and a delusion, and that there is little choice but to look for security through military strength.

They question whether any possible deal with Moscow could really improve the strategic relationship, or even if such a deal could be struck, whether the Russians could be trusted to abide by its provisions. Instead of encouraging a renewed negotiating effort they are challenging the current adherence to previous agreements reached with the Soviet Union.

The new talks lack a likely structure. While this has the virtue of allowing for a break with the past it means that there are no clear guidelines within which to organize either the high-level bargains or the low-level details. The notion of "umbrella" talks suggests the possibility of dividing the issues up into discrete packages - for example on offensive systems and space weapons - that can be handled by expert negotiating teams while allowing the inter-relationships between the different packages to be evaluated and assessed at the highest level. There is much to be said for this framework, but it will take time to establish, and the various decisions on procedure will be loaded with implications for the substance - another source of delay.

In these circumstances there may be a temptation to move for a quick agreement on an ostensibly easy matter. One possibility might be a deal on two treaties - those on a Threshold Test Ban and on Peaceful Nuclear Explosions, signed in the mid-1970s and yet to be ratified.

President Chernenko has indicated that movement here would be a valuable indicator of American "seriousness". The difficulty is that even this would require a major renegotiation, which might lead not so much to a quick success but to an early sense of frustration over a peripheral problem.

The most likely course is for the two sides to concentrate from the start on the central issues. The new factor since 1983 lies in the prominence of space weapons. The issue was already around in 1983 but was obscured by the Euro-missile question. The Soviet Union has now

Leaking, but any umbrella is better than none

focused on space as the next arena for the arms race and thus the logical place to call a halt. It views with alarm the American effort to develop a serviceable anti-satellite weapon in the short term and lay the foundations for a shift from offence to defence in the long term through the development of space-based anti-missile systems.

Although it has been active in both these fields, this is an area where American technological strength is bound to be felt. There may be doubts about the feasibility of some of the American concepts, but the prospect of an open-ended arms race in space cannot fill the Kremlin with enthusiasm.

There has been a lot of misunderstanding of the relationship between the Strategic Defence Initiative and arms control. In one sense, as a research programme at an early stage, it is quite irrelevant to the current negotiations. Critical development and deployment decisions will not need to be taken until the 1990s.

Nor is any new arms control needed to prevent the construction of space-based defences. This is firmly banned by the 1972 ABM Treaty. However, many of the components for such defences are similar to those required for anti-satellite weapons and so effective constraints on future developments with these weapons would inhibit the development of the Strategic Defence Initiative.

So with their current push on space weapons, the Americans have created a bargaining chip, even if it is not quite so formidable as many believe. Furthermore, it exists as a chip only so long as the Americans are actually prepared to "bargain" it away. It is not surprising therefore that one of the key issues in the American debate is whether or not to put US space developments on hold in order to facilitate agreement or whether to push ahead regardless because of the palpable strategic advantages of so doing.

This latter position is taken by those sceptical of arms control and more confident in the potential of defensive technology as a means of reducing nuclear vulnerability. It is worth noting, however, that many in the Administration recognize that cannot succeed if offensive weapons are left unchecked and will therefore ultimately depend on the success of

indistinguishable from conventional anti-ship SLCMs. Any attempt to limit these short of complete prohibition will lead to horrendous problems of verification. Arguably these are weapons that favour the Russians more than the US because of the latter's densely populated eastern seaboard unprotected by air defences, so the case for a complete ban may be persuasive although it will find articulate opponents within the Pentagon.

Even more difficult will be some sort of settlement of the Euro-missile problem. The "walk in the woods" deal of summer 1982 still seems the most attractive, but it was rejected at the time by both governments. Its attraction for Nato was that it would have legitimized some cruise missile deployments in a modestly limited question of British and French weapons. The only attraction for the Russians would have been the abandonment of the Pershing missiles, which they appear to find more troubling than cruise. It is hard to see what interest they would have in any deal without this element.

The numerical side of this question can be handled by integrating the intermediate systems with the much more numerous longer range strategic systems, and it will be interesting to see if this is envisaged under the "umbrella" approach.

From all this it can be seen that there is a long way to go before a new arms control agreement can be signed, sealed and delivered, although we might have an idea early on about the prospects for success. The problem may even soon turn out to be more one of protecting established arms control than of finding something new. The composition of an eventual deal is even harder to predict, except that the sort of compromises involved will be messy.

Nor is it likely that any deal will be sufficiently radical to satisfy the critics. So, while it would be an achievement to nip in the bud some of the current developments in space weaponry, as would be agreement at long last on serious reductions in missile numbers, it has to be recognized that arms control is at best a modest instrument. It does not offer a solution to the dilemmas of the nuclear age, but the alternative approaches proposed by arms control's critics appear to be even less promising.

If there is any reason for hope in Monday's talks it is that the two superpowers are making a start in sorting out their general political relationship. Perhaps the real value of an "umbrella" treaty will be to bring to a conclusion a large amount of unfinished international business that has been more a source of irritation than comity in East-West relations.

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The author is Professor of War Studies at Kings College, London.

Michael Pinto-Duschinsky on the implications of union ballots on the Labour levy

Will politics take a pounding?

Even if members initially decide against a political fund, union leaders will be able to hold further ballots on the question, possibly region by region. After political levies were introduced in 1913, some unions held repeated ballots before they finally obtained permission from their members to collect such money.

If some of the large unions obtain approval to maintain political funds, they will probably be able to increase the amounts collected from each member to compensate for the shortfall caused by the termination of other unions' levies. The ease

with which the rate of a political levy can be increased was recently illustrated by the TGWU when it altered its levy from 13p to 39p a quarter, thereby collecting an extra £1.5m a year.

Finally, leaders who fail to win their ballots will still be able to dispose of the money, totalling between £5m and £7m, in their political fund reserves.

The Trade Union Act, 1984, could indirectly harm the Conservative Party. If some unions stop contributing to party politics, companies could be tempted to follow suit, especially as the principle of corporate political payments is being under criticism. At the moment, the Conservatives' central funds are uneasily recovering from a period of crisis. The party's central income is still higher than Labour's, but the gap is smaller than in the past and the Conservative deficit since 1978 has been much greater than Labour's.

In 1983/4 Conservative Central

Central party income 1980-1983 (millions of pounds)				
	Conservative	Labour	Liberal	SDP
1980	3.2	2.8	0.2	
1981	4.1	3.7	0.2	0.9
1982	4.8	3.9	0.3	7.5
1983	9.8	8.1	0.8	1.6

Central spending on the 1983 General Election			
	Conservative	Labour	Alliance
	3.8	2.2	1.9

Union versus company contributions, 1983	
Five largest union payments	Five largest company payments (to Conservative Party and allied organizations)
Transport workers (TGWU)	British & Commonwealth Ship- ping
General Managers (GMBATU)	Alco-Lyons
Engineering Workers (AUEW)	Hanson Trust
Public Employees (NUPE)	Taylor Woodrow
Mineworkers (NUM)	Quadrant Royal Exchange
Total political spending	Total company payments
1,448,168	1,120,752
1,184,425	698,205
840,000	751,050
781,174	350,048
n.a.	352,859

1 Excludes administrative expenditure, includes grants to Labour Head Office, local Labour parties, MPs, etc.
2 Includes estimated regional spending.
3 Includes state grant to parliamentary opposition parties.

Office managed to collect, then spend, £9.75m, of which nearly £4m was devoted to the 1983 general election. In the previous three years the party's central income averaged £4.4m compared with Labour's £3.5m. During the 1979 election and the two years that followed it, Central Office made a loss of more than £4m, exhausting its reserves and incurring large debts. The debts were reportedly met before the 1983 election by the sale and lease-back of the headquarters building at 32 Smith Square, but Central Office is still feeling the effects of its losses.

These recurrent problems have been caused partly by the fact that donations from companies have long been in decline. It has proved particularly hard to collect corporate contributions in years between elections. In 1980-1983, company contributions to the Conservatives, including payments to local parties, were barely two-thirds those of unions levied to Labour. Equally worrying for Central Office are the signs of falling constituency membership and, consequently, declining local payments to the headquarters. In 1983/4, constituency associations gave £850,000 to Central Office, 25 per cent less in real terms than in 1979.

A quarrel between the Conservatives and Labour over institutional funding will be welcomed by the Alliance, which receives nothing from the unions and very little from companies.

Despite the absence of institutional backing, the SDP and, to a lesser extent, the Liberals proved more successful in raising funds from small and large individual contributors than any third party in the past 60 years. In 1983, the SDP and Liberal central organizations collected a total of nearly £2.5m, of which £1.6m went to the SDP. £800,000 to the Liberals and £57,000 to a joint Alliance election fund. The Alliance's central spending on the 1983 general election, £1.9m, was in real terms five times greater than central Liberal spending in the 1979 election.

Since the First World War, British politics has been conditioned by the intimate financial bond between unions and Labour and, to a lesser extent, between business and the Conservatives. It remains to be seen whether the new Trade Union Act will lead to a loosening of these links.



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MANAGING THE POUND

The New Year has brought no respite in the sharp fall of sterling in the foreign exchanges. If anything the pace has accelerated as a result of a sharp change in market sentiment about the continued growth of the American economy and worries about President Reagan's budget deficit. In the looking glass world of current international finance, these have persuaded speculators to back the dollar even further. Dollar strength is by no means the full story of the pound's weakness however. The immediate factors behind that weakness have been well rehearsed over the weeks. Today, the Government's perceived indifference to the level of the currency and resistance to any measures to stop so rapid a short-term fall is probably the most important factor. The Chancellor made it clear in his evidence to the Commons Treasury and Civil Service Committee in November that his definition of sound money does not include a strong pound, any more than did Harold Wilson's in 1967.

The City money markets have opened their curtains on 1985 with a strange scene. In the middle of a severe run on the pound, which has taken it to new lows against both the dollar and the average of currencies, the Bank of England has been acting strongly and visibly to head off any rise in interest rates in response to the pound's weakness. The Bank has injected substantial sums to prop up the bill market and has thus signalled to the clearing banks that they should not raise their base rates on the pound's account, even though yesterday's money market interest rates would suggest base rates of 10 or 10½ per cent against the present spread of 9½ to 9¾ per cent. The gap between market rates and the banks' own interest rates has already become so distorted that the biggest firms would make a profit by borrowing from their banks and lending them back the money through the market.

The Chancellor's reluctance to raise interest rates to keep the external level of sterling stable is understandable. Yesterday's unemployment figures showed a further small rise in the underlying rate of unemployment, completing a disappointing twelve months in which the numbers unemployed grew by a further 160,000 in the third year of economic recovery. As is well recognised in Downing Street, it is now important for the Government to show that the fulfilment of its economic strategy, by converting the conquest of inflation into lower interest rates and lower taxes, will enable the economy to create sustainable new jobs at a pace sufficient to cut the job queues.

Raising interest rates merely to support the pound, as last summer, would damage the process both in its immediate effects and, more seriously, by damaging the business confidence that is so vital to carry recovery into prolonged expansion. It would, incidentally, also have a more immediate impact than devaluation on the retail price index, as opposed to the underlying inflationary pressures in the economy. Moreover, devaluation at a time of falling dollar oil prices will aid the Chancellor's plan to cut income tax in the Budget.

Were the pound falling in isolation from other financial

conditions, there might therefore be compelling reasons to leave sterling to find its own level in the markets, despite the damage brought by sharp fluctuations. But that is not the case. On most objective tests, the money supply, the Treasury's principal financial target, is growing too fast, not least because the Bank of England cannot fund the budget deficit at today's interest rates. In those circumstances, leaving the pound to fall in the markets is merely to take an uncharacteristic soft option. To interfere with and distort markets so as to delay a rise in interest rates is folly.

To some extent, this is more window-dressing. A new set of money supply figures are due on Tuesday. Like the previous month's figures, they will be so distorted by the effects of the British Telecom issue as to tell the markets little about the trend. But they would provide an excuse for the Treasury and the banks to raise interest rates for domestic reasons. It would now, in any case, take a hefty rise in interest rates to satisfy those who doubt sterling, or the Government's determination to avoid precipitate falls. And nothing could be worse than a rise in rates accompanied by assurances that this represented a mere hiccup in the Government's interest rate cutting strategy. The Chancellor has been right to eschew an exchange rate target. But such problems might be made easier in the future if Treasury actions made it clear that the pound's value on the foreign exchanges is indeed an integral feature of sound money. That means managing the market to damp violent fluctuations.

What if during the Prime Minister's recent return from Washington instead of delighting the press photographers with her party hat Mrs Thatcher had pored over a cypher book and launched - perhaps on the basis of her new friendship with Mr Gorbachov - some personal mission to the Soviet leadership? Likely enough the public would have applauded such a Nixonian gesture. Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet would surely have acquiesced, too. What is certain is that there is now no Tory grandee to behave as the Marquess of Salisbury did 30 years ago in response to Sir Winston Churchill's personal effort at foreign policy-making and impeach the Prime Minister for breaching the constitution.

Moreover there are no ministers with the experience and lustre of Butler and Eden to monitor - and check - the Prime Minister's conduct. The comparison across 30 years points to Mrs Thatcher's dominance in the Cabinet, her relative strength greater than that of the giant Churchill. On the surface the comparison provides material for the constitutional worriers, those who would build up the checks and balances of Cabinet against Prime Minister, those who fret about presidential powers growing up in Downing Street.

Each January the release of official papers under the 30-year rule lets us eavesdrop on the inner discussions of an earlier generation of political leaders. Here, at last, is hard evidence on the secret life of British government, more trustworthy than the

tendentious notations of a Richard Crossman or the selected snippets provided by Mr Bernard Ingham. Churchill in 1954 was old and tired - but not beyond the prose memoranda of a cogency to put modern ministers to shame. The Cabinet had the talents, and Churchill was content to run it by delegation, housing to Mr Macmillan, the economy to Mr Butler, reserving for himself occasional (and to Eden most annoying) interventions in foreign policy. The Cabinet acted as a brake.

Would Churchill, on his own, have answered a request from President Eisenhower for joint Anglo-American action in support of the French in Vietnam, and with what consequence? Eden and the others, with eyes on far-stretched military commitments, were prepared to let the South East Asian dominoes fall as far as the boundary of Malaysia. And on perhaps the most vital decision made by a British government during the 1950s, the manufacture of thermo-nuclear weapons, the minutes of its successive meetings make impressive reading, a testament to that generation's sincere convictions about the national defence and ministers' practical good sense.

But this adds up to no endorsement of textbook Cabinet government nor should it lead to anachronistic reflection about the smaller men who gather round Mrs Thatcher at Cabinet table. The Cabinet of 1954 failed and failed miserably to exercise collective control of public expenditure. The minutes

resonate with the pleas of Mr Butler - a single voice, unsupported by the Prime Minister, among the spenders at home and abroad. Lord Swinton's Cabinet Committee on the Civil Estimates reported with a scheme for lessening the already burgeoning cost of welfare; Butler himself singled out the remarkable generosity of the agricultural price support scheme inherited from Atlee's day. But no action followed. Discussions on retrenchment petered out; the estimates for 1955 were adjusted upwards more than once.

Where but from the centre of the machine of government, from the Prime Minister, does the impetus spring for expenditure control, for management? The minutes are silent on the growth of the state's apparatus taking place in 1954 despite decontrol. Sir Winston's Cabinet, we see with hindsight, was floating on a bed of prosperity flayed by misdirected investment (those were days of Big Coal) and paternalist generosity to the claims of labour - those were the days when the machinery of shop floor restrictive practice was put in place. Mrs Thatcher's governing style is individualist and in our parliamentary system her style has its pitfalls. But from her comes a governing vision, a means of animating ministers in a common cause. Collective government, as practised by Churchill's Cabinet 30 years ago, was often blind to the extravagances of the collectivism it took over from the 1940s; we should bless the difference today.

CABINET GOVERNANCE

DID WE STAY LOW?

First reports from police forces on drunken driving arrests over the Christmas holiday suggest that Mrs Lynda Chalker may have backed a loser. In North Yorkshire, the number of positive breath tests more than doubled over last year, and in several other areas there were sharp increases, sometimes in spite of a smaller enforcement effort. Some of those who criticized the "Stay Low" campaign when it was launched are already girding themselves for a full-scale hue and cry.

It is far too soon for that, and even if there has been an increase in drunken driving this year it would be wrong to denounce Mrs Chalker with the kind of ferocity that has already been heard in some quarters. It will be a little while before even a rough overall picture will be available of the rate of tests and convictions - and of the casualty rate, which is what the whole effort is about in the last resort. Detailed analysis will take months. The snap of bad weather over the holiday and a less intense policing effort in some places (partly connected with the coal strike) will make this season an especially difficult one to compare with previous ones. Last season, with the new breath-testing equipment recently introduced and an

especially heavy enforcement drive, was a relatively quiet one.

The annual seasonal campaign against drunken driving is a remarkable exercise in what could almost be called hypocrisy if its motives were not basically unimpeachable. The sight of so much unnecessary death and suffering is a painful and frustrating one to anyone connected with it. It is especially poignant at Christmas, and a campaign of warnings and threats, as emphatic and unreserved as possible, helps to ease the sense of helplessness that police, government and motoring organizations all feel. Probably many drivers are induced to go more carefully as a result, though the evidence suggests not necessarily those who are most likely to cause accidents. Perhaps because of the annual publicity drive, but more probably for other reasons, the number of road accidents and the proportion of drivers killed who prove to have been drunk is not especially high at Christmas.

The Department of Transport's crime is to have tried to apply judgement to what is largely an impassioned ritual. In 1982 it attempted to suspend its publicity campaign in some areas to see whether any effect at all was observable, but other organizations stepped in with

larger helpings of admonition than usual, avoiding the risk of discovering that it did no good. This year the Government tried to make contact in its publicity with that category of driver - especially likely to be involved in accidents - for whom the usual calls for total abstinence evoked more derision. Surveys suggest that for a startlingly large number of people, drunken driving carries no social stigma at all. So Mrs Chalker imitated the French "Un verre ca va, trois verres..." campaign, aimed at those who would drink something, but might be prevailed on to drink less.

This approach is clearly less of a relief to the feelings of those who want to ease their distress with a broadside. What matters is whether it works. It seems that it may not have done, but that does not mean the ministry was wrong to try, if it had good reason to think it might. The truth is that drunken driving is not merely a Christmas tale, but an all-the-year-round problem of socially tolerated drug abuse, which plays a part in causing something like a third of all fatal accidents on British roads. The evidence is that it is on the increase again. To reduce it needs better enforcement and better means of altering social attitudes than any that have been tried in the past.

Overcrowding at lowest level

From Mrs Sally Mulford
Sir, I cannot understand how Sir Keith Joseph has overlooked an area where there seems to be an undesirable expansion in education practice as opposed to economy.

In our area, and I believe in many others, parents are being encouraged to send their small children under five years old to full-time infant school. The classes may be as large as 35 children to one adult and where over-fives are in the same class, the teacher must be exceptionally skilled to handle all her children's needs adequately.

In England the statutory age for full-time education is five years; in Europe, I understand, children do not enter full-time schooling until six or even later. So why do we bring four-year-olds into infant classes which can only provide inappropriately for them? I question whether teachers and parents themselves are looking at the needs of the children concerned.

Nursery classes require one adult for 13 children. Playgroups have one adult for six or eight children. Both are far more satisfactory for the little children.

By discouraging schools from taking in the under-fives it should surely be possible to reduce the cost of infant schooling, or better still allow an improved teacher to child ratio to enhance the five-plus child's learning. It might even lead to more encouragement for the wide variety of family-based groups which already exist nationwide. As parents are usually an essential part of these groups, it would certainly lead to improved parenting skills, which should please professional educators.

Yours etc,
SALLY MULFORD,
60 Church Road,
Fleet, Hampshire.

Flipping one's lid

From Mr James Bradford
Sir, If Mr Bullen (December 27) insists on wearing a basque beret he will, of course, have to greet a lady with a kiss on each cheek.

Why does he not revert to a good old English cloth cap with a peak, which can be politely touched?

Yours faithfully,
JAMES BRADFORD,
Crocus Cottage,
22 Whitlitt Street,
King's Sutton,
Near Banbury, Oxfordshire,
December 28.

The best policy

From Mr F. Ellis
Sir, Congratulations on so many virtues over the years, including honesty. The producers of the facsimile of No. 1 (January 2) must have been sorely tempted to correct The First Printer's Error, by transferring the last line of the last advertisement to its right place, thus restoring the Old Testament lectures to the Chapel rather than leaving them so nearly in the Soup-Rooms.

Yours faithfully,
F. ELLIS,
39 Limes Road,
Folkestone,
Kent,
January 2.

From Mr John Goodchild

Sir, I hope I am not too late in pointing out an apparent error in your issue of January 1, 1785. You describe the "Ode for the new year" as being by Paul Whitehead, though he died in 1774. Could this have been an early example of ghost writing or was it an error for William Whitehead, Poet Laureate, who died in April, 1785?

You may, of course, have printed a correction in the following issue, but I did not see it at the time.

I am, Sir, etc,
J. GOODCHILD,
121 Peters Court,
Porchester Road, W2,
January 2.

From Mr David Nathan

Sir, Would you kindly draw the attention of your head proof reader to an error in column three, page three, of the facsimile first edition of *The Times*, or *The Daily Universal Register*, as Mr Walter chose to call it.

There, under the heading "Antiquities", is advertised a collection of the most remarkable ruins and ancient buildings... Surely there is some mistake here. If it is allowed to pass uncorrected there is no knowing where it will end.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID NATHAN,
16 Augustus Close,
Brentford Dock,
Brentford,
Middlesex,
January 2.

Progress in repair of housing stock

From the Minister for Housing and Construction

Sir, In his letter (January 2) Mr John Perry made a number of points about the backlog of repair of the housing stock.

The 1981 English house condition survey was one of a series. A judgement about the condition of our housing stock is best made against the background of the earlier surveys in 1971 and 1976.

Ten years after the 1971 survey the number of dwellings lacking one or more basic amenities - which include an inside WC, a fixed bath or shower, and a hot and cold water system - had fallen from 2.8 million to 0.9 million. The number of unfit dwellings remained at about the same level of just over 1.1 million and those requiring repairs costing more than £5,000 (in 1981 prices) increased from 860,000 to 1,050,000.

Since 1981, substantial progress has been made in tackling disrepair. The main problem is in the private sector, where individual owners are responsible for maintaining their homes.

The Government helps those in greatest need by making grants available to carry out essential repairs and improvements. In 1982-83, before the latest house condition survey, expenditure on repair and improvement grants was £124 million. In 1983-84 it was £170 million. This year it is likely to be about £750 million.

Even this increased expenditure, carried out with the aid of grants, is a small part of total spending on maintaining the housing stock. It is estimated that owner-occupiers and private tenants and landlords spent about £5 billion in 1983-84 on maintenance, repair and improvement of their houses.

In the same year, capital investment by local authorities to repair or improve their existing stock was £1.1 billion and they spent a further £1.2 billion of current expenditure on maintenance and repairs.

All of these figures have been increasing, not decreasing, as Mr Perry implies.

Patrick Jenkin's announcement in the Commons on December 19 did not affect the planned level of public investment in housing in 1985-86, which remains at £3,055 million, as set out in the autumn statement on November 12. The purpose of the measures announced on December 19 was to reduce the risk of a breach of the local authority cash limit for next year.

The Building Research Establishment has carried out a series of studies of prefabricated reinforced concrete houses and has begun a major investigation of problems affecting large panel systems of construction.

Polytechnic troubles

From Sir Ashley Bramall

Sir, As Leader of the ILEA during the whole of the period when Mr Terence Miller was Director of the Polytechnic of North London, may I write to protest at the ludicrous charge in his letter in your issue of December 19, that the ILEA wished, in his time, to establish "an Albanian-style peoples' collective university".

Whatever may be said of the political views prevailing in the ILEA then or now I would not have thought that anyone has ever imagined that they included enthusiasm for the late Joseph Stalin.

What the ILEA, now and in the past, has wanted of the directors of the polytechnics which it aids is that they should be able to manage their institutions so that they can get on with their educational functions.

Battery-powered car

From the Managing Director of Sinclair Vehicles, Ltd

Sir, I would like to reassure Mr George Isted (December 27) regarding liability insurance for Sinclair Vehicles' forthcoming electric vehicle.

Although not a legislative requirement, Sinclair Vehicles has long seen such insurance as a most important facility for its customers. It has been in discussion with several major insurance companies since last May and at launch will be announcing the availability of comprehensive insurance arrangements to meet the needs of all owners.

Yours faithfully,
BARRIE WILLS,
Managing Director,
Sinclair Vehicles, Ltd,
University of Warwick Science Park,
Lynchgate Road,
Coventry,
December 31.

Progress in repair of housing stock

The Government expects the next house condition survey to be carried out in 1986.

Yours faithfully,
IAN GOW,
Department of the Environment,
2 Marsham Street, SW1,
January 3.

From Mr Jeff Rooker, MP for Birmingham Perry Barr (Labour)

Sir, To put the title "Strong year for house construction" (page 1, January 2) over the story on private-sector construction is misleading.

If simply allowing the private sector of housebuilding to build for sale on land it can somehow acquire constituted housing policy, then the latest figures from the National House Building Council could be applauded even more so. Unfortunately this is not the case.

The private sector, while increasing, has not been able to make good the cuts in the public and voluntary sectors so that we, as a nation, are still building fewer homes than we need.

The record private-sector completions in 1984 fell naturally on from the record starts in 1983 which, at 167,000, were better than the best year of private starts under Labour in 1978 of 157,000.

Housing policy for the homeless, the overcrowded, young couples, etc depends on somewhat more than private-sector starts and completions. Nineteen seventy-eight saw the lowest total starts in private, public and voluntary sectors under Labour at 264,000. 1983, with its even higher private starts, saw the first total starts under the Tories of 214,000, some 50,000 less than our best year.

Coupled with this overall low total our national clearance rate is at an all-time low. This would not be so had the natural consequence been a substantial repair and improvement programme. As it is, we are left in the unique situation of not repairing or replacing our national housing stock at a rate even equal to its deterioration.

The Government has a choice. Either it backs down on intentions to curtail even the present modest repairs and improvement programme or, while maintaining and increasing the supply of land to the private sector, it allows the public and voluntary sectors to increase so as to get the total housebuilding programme up.

To do neither, which is the present plan (sic), is to store up a crisis of monumental proportions for later.

Yours etc,
JEFF ROOKER,
Shadow Minister for Housing and Construction,
House of Commons,
January 2.

Ban at Stonehenge

From Professor Glyn Daniel, FBA

Sir, Three cheers for the National Trust, who have at last had the courage to ban the folk festival which has disfigured the environs of Stonehenge for so long. May fencing and well-aimed propaganda combine for their success.

I hope English Heritage will follow suit and ban the ridiculous semi-religious posturing of the doty Druids which its predecessors allowed at midsummer.

It is worth reflecting that when, briefly, the Government banned the Druids from midsummer Stonehenge frolics in the twenties, they asked if they could build a replica near by on Salisbury Plain. We do now need a Stonehenge B for many reasons.

Yours faithfully,
GLYN DANIEL,
St John's College,
Cambridge,
December 31.

Good news in 1984

From the Bishop of Norwich

Sir, Here in East Anglia on July 27 we passed the million mark for attendances at the six Mission English centres, addressed by Dr Billy Graham, and 97,000 made an open commitment to Christ.

As your esteemed "paper of record" completes its second century, perhaps you could watch for the good news, or at this end of term report we may have to say "Could do better", concerning your events of 1984.

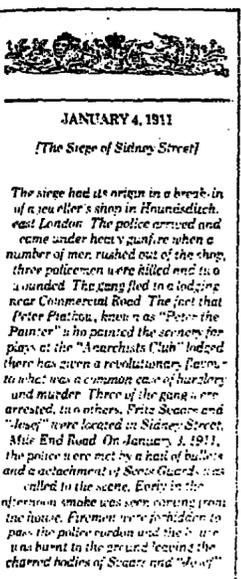
Yours encouragingly,
MAURICE NORVIC,
The Bishop's House,
Norwich,
December 31.

Christmas present

From A. A. L. Caesar

Sir, For four days over Christmas I did not hear or read the names Scargill, Dalyell, Belgrano or Livingstone. It was such a pleasure.

Yours gratefully,
A. A. L. CAESAR,
St Catharine's College,
Cambridge.



THE SIEGE OF SIDNEY STREET

The siege had its origin in a break-in of a new shop in Hounslow, east London. The police arrived and came under heavy gunfire, a number of men, rushed out of the shop, three policemen were killed and two wounded. The gang fled in a lorry near Commercial Road. The fact that Peter Plinton, known as "Peter the Painter" had painted the scene for years at the "Acherhals Club" had been a common cause of banter and murder. Three of the gang were arrested, in others, Fritz Steiner and "Iraq" were located in Sidney Street, Mile End Road. On January 4, 1911, this scene met by a mob of police and a detachment of Scots Guards was called to the scene. Early in the afternoon smoke was seen coming from the house. Firemen were forbidden to pass the police cordon and the fire was burnt in the ground leaving the charred bodies of Steiner and "Iraq".

ARRIVAL OF AIR CHURCHILL

A little before noon Mr Winston Churchill, the Home Secretary arrived at the scene of the siege. Sir, this time quite a number of the leading police and detective officials were on the spot.

The scene when the Home Secretary arrived was possibly the most curious that has ever been witnessed in London. Cordons of Police kept dense crowds away from the approaches to Sidney Street. Sidney Street itself was bare for the whole length of the front of the station's buildings. At the Mile-end road and a detachment of Scots Guards with their rifles at the ready - and several policemen armed with sporting shotguns were lined up, while at the head of Landly Street stood a nucleus of "plain-clothes men", some wearing the respectable clerical dress of the white hands. At the far end of Sidney Street was another detachment of Scots Guards and armed police.

On the roof of the Ritz, Sun, a public-house overlooking the Commercial Road end of Sidney Street, was a crowd of armed police and spectators. Every few minutes shots rang out, and every now and then a rifle from the brick walls went whistling or sipping overhead. Men armed with revolvers were peeping out from behind the van gates of the brewery entrance.

The major part of the fire, however, was taking place from the windows directly opposite those of No 100. Here expert shots were hidden, and at the suspicion of a movement within the first floor windows they fired point blank into the street. The lamp haze of the wind was thick, though the stars were visible. At intervals the sharp cracks of the service rifles were punctuated by the savage snaps of the automatic pistols that returned the fire, and it was possible to see the striking bullets as they clipped the roof and hit the windows behind which the police and soldiers were ensconced.

THE VALOUR OF IGNORANCE

From the noise and the general practice of firing men it might have been street fighting of the fiercest kind. There was one curious setting to the picture, however, that killed this illusion. Every window in the vicinity, and many in the actual area of the conflict, was boarded up with the onlookers. For the most part they were young girls and children, and one could not fail to be struck with the fact that in nearly every case they were of the Semitic type. These people showed no evidence of fear, though they were in imminent danger of being hit by a chance ricochet. As many of the soldiers employed perforce fired at an angle the bullets ricocheted in a most erratic manner. To the onlookers - who knew no fear, though they were in danger. In fact some innocent people were hit by them. Two men in the crowd were slightly wounded, and the writer himself was quite close to Mr Quinn, of the Criminal Investigation Department, when a ricochet bullet that had "set up" on a wall pierced his coat and lodged in his pocket. Mercifully it was already spent. But one shuddered when one thought about what might have happened if it had struck the head of a child or had "run the gauntlet" in the street. The indiscriminate firing that would have resulted there must have had disastrous effect upon these "fearless" spectators.

MEANS TO THE END

It certainly seemed when the Home Secretary arrived that the situation had reached an impasse. Mr Churchill, who took his stand at the corner, immediately conferred with the senior police officials present. It is some time since the Home Secretary was under fire, but his old military capacity had not deserted him. He was full of resourceful suggestion. His first idea was that metal shields should be improved to enable the police to approach the building. Then the outstanding suggestion was made that a cannon be brought to how in the front of the building, just think of it! A field gun in action in a London street!... The suggestion was acted upon, and a telephone message was at once despatched to St. John's Wood Barracks.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Colonel-in-Chief Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, this afternoon received Brigadier Vera Rooke on relinquishing her appointment as Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Services.

A memorial service for Dr Solly Wand will be held at the West London Synagogue, 33 Seymour Place, London, W.1, on Wednesday, January 9, 1985, at 12.15pm.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr Kenneth McC. G. Douie, Master of the Lower School, St Dunstons College, 1972-1984, is to be held in Southwark Cathedral on Friday, January 11, 1985, at 2.30pm. All boys, past and present, parents, friends and relations will be most welcome.

Mrs Norman Berry sincerely thanks all friends and colleagues of her late husband, Colonel Norman Berry, OBE, for their support and kind messages of sympathy since her bereavement. Please accept this as a personal acknowledgment. The date of the memorial service will be announced later.

Birthdays today

Major Sir Taiton Brinton, 69; Miss Grace Bumbry, 48; Mr Alexander Chancellor, 45; Miss Rosalie Crutchley, 63; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, 58; Sir Thomas Ferens, 52; Professor N.J. Hancock, 80; Havlock Hudson, 60; Lieutenant-Commander Sir Ian Clark Hutchison, 82; Sir Leslie Joseph, 77; Professor B. Josephson, 45; the Hon Diana Makgill, 55; Mr T. J. Rice, 51; Sir Thomas Robson, 89; the Earl of Selkirk, QC, 79; Mr Eric E. van Lennep, 92; Dr T. D. Whitton, 70; Major-General Michael Wilkins, 52.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr Michael Murray to be Secretary to the Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar from December 20, 1984, in succession to the late Vice-Admiral Sir Arthur Power. Mr Murray has been Deputy Secretary since 1977.

Mr J. F. Fahley, Second Master at Repton School, to be Headmaster of Church's College, Peterfield, from September 1, in succession to Mr D. L. Brooks, who is retiring.

Mr John Miles to succeed Mr Matthew Carter as Typographic Adviser to Her Majesty's Stationery Office from January 2.

Mr John E. Smith, to join the Cabinet Office's Enterprise Unit on a three month secondment.

£4.2m record

The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council granted £4.2 million to doctors and scientists undertaking arthritis research last year, a record amount.

Latest wills

Lord Astor's £3.1m estate
Lord Astor of Hever a former proprietor of *The Times* of London, Aberdeenshire, left estate valued at £3,128,610 gross.

Lieutenant-Colonel The Hon David Edward Hely-Hutchinson, of Corsaham, Wiltshire, who ran a thoroughbred stud at Orchardstone, co Tipperary, from 1946 to 1971, left estate valued at £788,289 net. He left his property mostly to relatives.

Lawson, Mr Edgar, of Darlington, Durham, £527,274.
Pier, Mr Walter, of Haby, North Yorkshire, and Mr P. A. Whetton, of Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, £267,594.
Stangroom, Mr Sidney Leonard, of Auteledge, Northamptonshire, £382,469.
Ussishkin, Mrs Betty, of St John's Wood, London, £262,889.
Barton, Mr Benjamin James, of West Anstey, Devon, farmer, £272,766.

Luncheon

The Master of the Butchers' Company, Mr William Arthur Woulhouse, presided at a court luncheon held at Butchers' Hall yesterday. The toast to the guests was proposed by Mr Howard G. Ronald, President of the National Federation of Meat Traders, also spoke.

A perspective design for a school or college of about 1865, in the manner of Pugin's pupils, John Prichard or Samuel Sanders Tenton but which has not been identified.

Victorian grandeur in perspective

By Charles Knevit
Architecture Correspondent

Designs for several royal residences are included in the latest exhibition of architectural perspectives called *Town and Country* which opens in London this month.

They include Sir Robert Smirke's unexecuted design for the gatehouse, bridge and entrance gateway to Windsor Castle, 1824, and Thomas Allom's sketch of Osborne House, Isle of Wight, which was designed and built 1845-48 for Queen Victoria by Thomas Cubitt and the Prince Consort.

A watercolour by Jerry Barrett of the Throne Room at St James's Palace, dated 1862, was almost certainly a study for a painting by the same artist which is now in the royal collection.

Interest in architectural pictures has grown enormously recently and is reflected in the prices they command.

A small watercolour by Francis Danby of Fonthill Abbey, the Gothic fantasy designed by James Wyatt for the eccentric William Beckford, is for sale at £2,400, and a pencil and watercolour sketch of



A detail from a perspective of the International Exhibition Pavilion, South Kensington, by Thomas Shorter Boys. The building, on the site of what is now the Science Museum, was demolished in 1864 and the materials reused for Alexandra Palace.

the International Exhibition Pavilion for South Kensington, 1862, by Thomas Shorter Boys of a design by Captain Francis Fowke is £9,000.

The highest price of £12,000 is for a small watercolour study of the spire of a bell tower at Baden, Switzerland, by John Ruskin.

But Mr Christopher Wood, whose Belgravia Gallery is mounting the exhibition with the help of Mr Henry Potts, a collector, says that part of the attraction of such work is that it is still a relatively new market with prices to match. Much of the work is for sale at between £100 and £500 and will appeal to enthusiasts and amateur collectors.

The exhibition is at the Christopher Wood Gallery, 15 Mount Street, London SW1, and is open from January 15 to February 2, weekdays 9.30 to 5.30, Saturdays 10-1.

OBITUARY

MR NOEL BLAKISTON

Authority on the Risorgimento

Mr Noel Blakiston, OBE, who had a distinguished career in the Public Record Office, and who became a witty and authoritative writer on the world of the Italian Risorgimento, died on December 22.

He was born in 1905, the second son of a Lincolnshire rector. Awarded a scholarship to Eton in 1918, he became a leading personality of his generation in College, then much influenced by such figures as Cyril Connolly, George Orwell and Steven Runciman.

A skilful cricketer who once hit a ball out of the ground and down the chimney of the pavilion, he also made many friends and became a member of the select Eton Society.

After Magdalene College, Cambridge, Blakiston passed into the civil service in 1928, and stayed there in the Research and Modern Records Departments of the Public Records Office till his retirement as principal assistant keeper in 1970.

He became an admirable archivist and effortless administrator, a first-rate hand at helping wandering scholars with their research. His clients included the Russian Orthodox Church in London, the Malaysian government in Kuala Lumpur, where he went for a short secondment, and, from 1938, Eton itself with its enormous mass of documents and charters going back before the 15th century, most of which he catalogued himself.

This last was a major work and Eton made him an honorary Fellow in 1974, the first for more than 300 years.

Blakiston's marriage to Georgiana Russell, herself a distinguished author, in 1929, stimulated his long-standing passion for Italy and the world of the Risorgimento, in which the 19th-century Russells had

played such a part. Hence *The Roman Question*, (a considerable work of historical research, involving the editing of Lord Odo Russell's papers from 1859 to 1870, when he was unofficial British representative in Rome; first published in 1962 and twice reprinted, it became a leading source book for this tangled period in the history of the Papacy's temporal power).

Hence also many witty and perceptive articles and reviews in English and Italian which illuminate the world of the Risorgimento - not only major figures like Mazzini and Cavour, but many of the innumerable bystanders and camp-followers of the period - travellers and busybodies, exiles and adventurers.

Blakiston wrote and lectured in Italian and made many friends in Italy as everywhere. He was elected fellow of the Institute for the history of the Risorgimento and the Italian Government made him a Cavaliere dell' Ordine del Merito.

Blakiston was a man of tireless industry and great erudition, leavened by a distinctive sense of humour; he never lost the sparkle and humour of his youth. He wrote admirable short stories, four volumes of which were published between 1951 and 1965. (collected edition 1977).

Retirement from the Record Office did not mean inactivity for this energetic, public-spirited man. For some years after 1970 he was chairman of the Chelsea Society and as such did much to protect the amenities of that borough.

Cyril Connolly's letters to Noel Blakiston, mostly written between 1924 and 1928, were published as *A Romantic Friendship* (1975).

Blakiston is survived by his wife and their two daughters.

SIR BASIL BARTLETT

Sir Basil Bartlett, Bt, who died on January 2 at the age of 79, had had a career as an actor and playwright, and was for three years in the 1950s Drama script supervisor for BBC TV.

Basil Hardington Bartlett was born in London on September 15, 1905, a son of the late Hardington Arthur Bartlett, eldest son of the first baronet. He succeeded his grandfather as second baronet in 1921.

Educated at Repton and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, he began his career as a journalist and was for a time bridge correspondent of the *Evening News*.

He made his first stage appearance at the Criterion in 1930, as Lord Monkstrut, in a revival of *Milesmores*, and in the following year played a season with the Festival Theatre, Cambridge. He took the part of Judas Iscariot, in *Judas*, at the Royal Lyceum, during the season, 1931-32, was a member of the Birmingham Repertory Company.

His next engagement was with a touring company, which played at provincial theatres in *Musical Chairs*, and he afterwards appeared at the Open Air Theatre, Regent's Park.

During the Second World War he served in the Intelligence Corps with the rank of lieutenant-colonel and was chiefly concerned with combating the activities of the "5th Column" particularly in Belgium and France.

He took part in the evacuation of Dunkirk and was wounded when the destroyer in which he was crossing the channel was torpedoed. He chronicled his experiences in *My First War*, published in 1940 and *Next of Kin* followed in 1944.

He made several appearances in radio and television plays and was Drama Script Supervisor of the BBC television from 1952 to 1955. He was the author of several plays, including *This Seat of Mars*, *The Lurder-Less than Kind* and *A Fish in the Family*.

In 1937, he married Mary only daughter of Sir Ian Malcolm, KCMG. She was for many years an announcer for BBC television. There were three daughters of the marriage, which ended in divorce in 1960.

SIR HENRY PIERRE

Sir Henry Pierre, CMT, FRCS, who died at his home in Bray, Maidenhead, on December 28, aged 80, had done pioneer work in introducing chest surgery into Trinidad.

He spent the greater part of his life in Trinidad where he devoted 25 years to the Medical Service. In 1957 he retired from hospital practice but continued to do private work until 1976 when he retired and came to live in England.

Born in Trinidad Joseph Henry Pierre received his early education at Queen's Royal College. His medical training was at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School and he graduated MBBS (London) in 1931.

In 1932 he returned to Trinidad where he joined the Medical Service. In 1945 he became Senior Surgeon to the General Hospital in San Fernando and in 1950 was appointed Consultant Surgeon to the General Hospital in Port-of-Spain in addition to similar posts at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium and the Mental Hospital.

In the meanwhile he had become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh and in 1959 he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the English College.

He was active and well-known in local circles being President of the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society and Vice-President of Messrs Tate & Lyle Ltd.

He was also elected Fellow of the International College of Surgeons, and was awarded the Meritorious Public Health Citation by the Government of the United States. In 1953 he was awarded the Coronation Medal, and was knighted in 1957. He was awarded the Chaconia Medal of Trinidad in 1976. Pierre loved surgery and his life was one of service to his fellow men. His personality captivated all who met him and made him universally popular among colleagues and patients.

He was a well-built man with large hands and a gentle touch which allayed the fears of the most apprehensive patient. With young children, of whom he was particularly fond, his touch was like magic.

ANNE REES-MOGG

A colleague writes: Anne Rees-Mogg was a vital part of the world of artists' film in England. The whole community profited from her generosity of spirit and her passionate advocacy of our chosen medium.

At Chelsea she fought for a non-profit film within the fine tradition of liberal arts education. She will be sorely missed there by her present students, and fondly remembered by the many artists who were inspired by her example as a film-maker.

MR LEO ROBIN

Leo Robin, who won an academy award for writing the lyrics for Bob Hope's song, "Thanks for the Memory" in the *Big Broadcast of 1938* has died in Los Angeles at the age of 84.

He collaborated with Ralph Rainger, Jerome Kern, and Julie Styne, on many famous songs such as "Louise", Maurice Chevalier's most memorable song "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" from *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* and "Beyond the Blue Horizon".

He once had three musical shows running simultaneously on Broadway: *Just Fancy*, *Alley Oop*, and *Hi the Deck*.

For Paramount and other studios he did the scores of more than 30 films including *Little Miss Marker*, *Cash and My Sister Ellen*.

Advanced helicopter for North Sea rescues

By Ronald Faux

A rescue helicopter equipped to operate in the darkest and most severe North Sea conditions went into service yesterday from Sumburgh in Shetland. Paid for by the Department of Trade, operated by HM Coastguard and flown by pilots of Bristol Helicopters, the S61 is claimed to be the first civilian aircraft to receive full official approval for night rescue work.

The helicopter is fitted with a navigation system able to pinpoint a casualty in the sea by the "thermal image" generated by his bodyheat. Using this or any location beacon carried on the casualty's clothing or life raft, the helicopter is able to position itself directly overhead and, using an advanced autopilot system, descend at the push of a button to the minimum safe height.

"The pilot simply monitors

the system, which will measure the height of the waves and fly accordingly. It is the only civilian helicopter dedicated to providing a 24-hour rescue cover", Captain Alan MacGregor, Bristol's general manager for Scotland, said.

Within the 150-mile range of the aircraft there are thousands of oil workers living on rigs and production platforms in the North Sea. There are also many fishing vessels and supply ships.

Last year Sumburgh-based aircraft flew 36 rescue missions, mainly in daylight saving scores of lives. The new system will allow the coastguard helicopter, which will be on 15-minute standby during the day and 45-minute during the night, to operate twice as frequently, even during the long northern winter nights.

University news

Sheffield
Nine honorary degrees will be conferred at the annual degree congregations in July:

L.D.: Sir Sze-yuen Chung, FRS.
D.Eng: Professor Alexander Cullen, FRS.
D.Sc: Professor Sidney Eldsen, FRS.
M.D: Sir Thomas Lodge.
M.Mus: The Lindsay String Quartet.
Mr Peter Cropper, Mr Roger Bagley, Mr Ronald Birks, and Mr Bernard Gregor-Smith.

A further four honorary degrees will be conferred at congregations in February and December:

Litt.D: Dr Frederick Thorpe.
M.A: Mr Robert Atkins and Mr Anthony Thornton.
Ph.D: Mr Sydney Bart.

Two ex-officio degrees will be conferred in May:
M.D: Mrs Miss M Bert Jordan.
B.Sc: Mr Roy Bradey.

Strathclyde
Grants
The department of Engineering Research Council has awarded grants to the following: £10,000 to Professor Brian Cuthbert and Dr Ian Gair for work on an optical fibre gyro compass.

Dundee
Honorary degrees to be conferred on the following in July:
LL.B: Sir Kenneth Alexander, Sir Herbert Bonar formerly Chairman and Managing Director of British Overseas Airways Corporation, and Sir John Gifford, former Director of Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London. Lady Millicent Norton, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine, London. Dr John Gifford, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine, London. Mr J. J. Jones, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Medicine, London.

Leicester
Dr John Urry, senior lecturer and head of department of sociology, has been appointed to a personal chair in sociology from August 1, 1985.

Di. Evr Evans and Dr John Gough
Senior Lecturers in the department of history, and Dr Tom Gough, senior lecturer in the department of history, have been appointed to personal chairs in the department of history from August 1, 1985.

Dr Arnold Clark
Senior Lecturer in the department of architecture, has been appointed to a personal chair in architecture from August 1, 1985.

Mr J. W. Baring and Miss S. Barry
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robin Baring, of West House, West Malling, Kent, and Mrs Barry, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. Cooper, of New York, and Mrs Barbara Barnard, of North Lodge, Odham, Hampshire.

Mr R. G. Bathurst and Miss V. G. Threlfall
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Philip Bathurst, of Apple Tree Cottage, Bay, Gloucestershire, and Victoria, youngest daughter of Mr R. I. Threlfall, QC, and Mrs Threlfall, of Pebble Hill House, Lampsfield, Surrey.

Mr J. J. Beckett and Miss B. J. E. Fletcher
The engagement is announced between Stephen John, only son of Mrs Marie E. Armitage, of Grassington, Lancashire, and Mr John Beckett, and Belinda Jane Elizabeth, only daughter of Commander and Mrs Giles Fletcher, of Ropley, Hampshire.

Mr M. J. A. Bishop and Miss F. Melbourne
The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Mr and Mrs M. R. Bishop, of Combe House, Beckley, Sussex, and Frances, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Melbourne, of Coopers Ground, East Knyle, Wiltshire.

Mr R. A. Brays and Miss W. Entwistle
The engagement is announced between Rodney, older son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Brass, of Edinburgh, and Wendy, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Raymond Entwistle, of Edinburgh.

Mr M. E. C. Button and Miss P. G. McClure
The engagement is announced between Maurice, younger son of Mr Douglas Button, and Mrs Daphne Button, of Parkstone, Dorset, and Patricia, only daughter of Dr and Mrs Patrick McClure, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr J. M. C. Cooper and Miss V. E. G. Harper
The engagement is announced between Julian Mark Culmer, elder son of Mr and Mrs R. C. Cooper, of The Old Rectory, East Brighthelm, Suffolk, and Victoria Elizabeth Gordon, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. G. Harper, of Mervil, Boston, Hambleton, Surrey.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J. J. Goinance and Miss C. A. Uniacke
The engagement is announced between Jasper, son of the Hon Jonathan Guinness and of Mrs Paul Charman, and Camilla, daughter of Mr Robie Uniacke and of the late Mrs Sally Uniacke.

Mr N. B. Dillon and Dr F. C. Seal
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Lord Justice and Lady Dillon, of Grandisburgh, Suffolk, and Clara, daughter of Commander and Mrs Christopher Seal, of Henstridge, Somerset.

Mr J. G. C. Boles and Miss V. J. Bashford
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, elder son of Mr and Mrs Jack Boles, and the late Mrs Boles and stepson of Lady Anne Boles, of Rydon House, Talaton, Exeter, and Valerie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Bashford, of Lower Kingswood, Surrey.

Mr M. V. Charter and Miss J. E. Craddock-Hartopp
The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Mr and Mrs V. N. Charter, of Writtle, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Sir John and Lady Craddock-Hartopp, of Wimbledon.

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Dr R. J. Cowland and Miss N. A. van de Velde
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J. Cowland, of Fitcham, Surrey, and Nicola Anne, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. C. van de Velde, of Ingelstone, Essex.

Mr W. P. Healey and Miss S. J. Ray
The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs W. Healey, of Redcar, Cleveland, and Jane, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W. J. F. Ray, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr P. J. Hollingsworth and Miss P. M. Bance
The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of John and Janet Hollingsworth, of Dims Test, Oxford, and Pauline, only daughter of Geoffrey and Mary Bance, of Maidenhead.

Mr L. M. Hook and Miss A. P. Higgins
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Hook, of Churt, Farnham, Surrey, and Angela, only daughter of Mrs Patricia Higgins and the late Mr Frank Higgins, of Exeter, Devon.

Mr P. Janaway, RN, and Miss H. Farrow
The engagement is announced between Paul, only surviving son of Mrs P. Janaway, of Bury, Leicestershire, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Farrow, of Whippingham, Isle of Wight.

Mr A. H. Koplin and Miss G. P. Sonnenberg
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs A. H. Koplin, of Ilford, Essex, and Gale Phyllis, daughter of Dr and Mrs B. William Sonnenberg, of Anaheim, California.

Mr R. A. Larter and Miss P. E. K. Dodd-Noble
The engagement is announced between Richard Arthur, son of Mr and Mrs R. A. Larter, of Farham House, Woodbridge, Suffolk, and Penelope Elisabeth Kirkley, daughter of Miss Dawn Dodd-Noble, of Sandon, Huntingford, Hertfordshire.

Mr M. J. Le Fluff and Miss P. H. Melvin
The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Commander and Mrs E. Le Fluff, of Wintchbury, Tavistock, Devon, and Patricia, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Melvin, of Culverhays Lodge, Sherborne, Dorset.

Mr A. B. Melvin and Miss A. M. Woodhead
The engagement is announced between Alexander Blyth, younger son of Mr and Mrs A. B. Melvin, of Sandon, Huntingford, Hertfordshire, and only daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Woodhead, of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

Mr S. T. Monty and Miss S. A. Goldwater
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs S. T. Monty, of Upper Norwood, London, and Susan, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Sidney Goldwater, of Stanmore, Middlesex.

Dr D. W. Murray and Miss C. M. Montgomery
The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs W. L. Murray, of Buxton, Derbyshire, and Caroline, eldest daughter of Canon and Mrs A. A. Montgomery, of Mosstowic, Elgin, Moray.

Mr A. A. Musgrave and Miss R. H. James
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Squadron Leader and Mrs A. B. Musgrave, of Fmbsay, North Yorkshire, and Rebecca, younger daughter of Captain and Mrs D. L. G. James, of Newton Ferrers, Devon.

Mr M. W. Nelsby and Miss C. L. Dallison
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Edgar Nelsby, and Claire, only daughter of Mr and Mrs John P. Dallison, both of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

Mr D. J. Perrett and Miss C. E. S. Lucy
The engagement is announced between David James, only son of Mr and Mrs E. J. Perrett, of 110 Victoria Avenue, Bristol, and Cecilia Elizabeth, only daughter of Major and Mrs D. P. V. Lucy, of The Chantry, Ilminster, Somerset.

Dr T. W. Potter and Miss S. C. Bailey
The engagement is announced between Timothy, younger son of Mr C. H. Potter, of Thornham, Norfolk, and the late Mrs P. Potter, and Sarah, daughter of Mr H. D. Bailey, of Foresters House, Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Evelyn Bailey, of The River House, Quenington, Gloucestershire.

Mr E. M. Preston Bell and Miss N. J. Cannon
The engagement is announced between Max, elder son of Mr and Mrs John Preston Bell, of Meopham, Kent, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Cannon, of Birch Grove, Sussex.

Mr P. T. Teuten and Miss B. J. Pettavel
The engagement is announced between Paul, eldest son of Mr and Mrs J. T. Teuten, of Ealing, London, and Beatrice-Jeanne, daughter of Dr J. P. Pettavel, of Monte Carlo, and Mrs J. Pettavel, of Hammer-smith, London.

Mr P. D. B. Ward and Miss R. M. Fudakowska
The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Colonel and Mrs Christopher Ward, of Farnham, Surrey, and Renata, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Wojciech Fudakowski, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.

Mr J. G. Wilford and Miss K. A. Evans
The engagement is announced between Jamie Wilford, The Parachute Regiment, elder son of Colonel D. J. Wilford, OBE, of Belgium, and Mrs J. Wilford, of Camberley and Katherine, younger daughter of Captain Brian Evans, RN and Mrs Evans, of East Haring, West Sussex.

Mr R. K. S. Wills and Miss P. T. Cavan
The marriage took place yesterday at Kensington Register Office of Mr Nicholas Kenneth Spencer Wills, son of Sir John Spencer Wills and Lady Wills, of Church Street, Kensington, and Miss Philippa Trench Cavan, eldest daughter of the Reverend Donald Trench Cavan and Mrs Cavan, of Hampton, Oxfordshire.

Mr Q. O. B. Cronk and Miss C. F. Lloyd Roe
The marriage took place on December 23 at the Church of St Mary the Less, Cambridge, between Mr Quentin Cronk, son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Cronk, of Saffron Walden, and Miss Corinna Lloyd Roe, daughter of Mr and Mrs Bernard Roe, of Pulney, London.

Mr C. Elliott and Miss H. Cornevia
The marriage took place in London on December 20, and in Paris on December 22, of Mr Charles Robert Elliott, son of the late Mr Andrew Elliott and Mrs Ruth Elliott, of London, and Miss Helle Cornevia, younger daughter of M and Mme Robert Cornevia, of Paris and Vermenton, Burgundy.

Mr F. M. Fraker and Miss L. M. Havenon
The marriage between Mr Ford M. Fraker and Miss Linda M. Hanson took place on Monday, December 24, 1984. A service of blessing was held afterwards at St Andrew's Church, Nether Wallop, Hampshire.

Mr J. K. Westbury and Miss L. M. F. Giordani
The marriage took place on November 24 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, between Mr Jonathan Kingham Westbury, elder son of the late Dr D. Westbury and Mrs B. Westbury, of Great Glenham, Suffolk, and Miss Laura Mary Giordani, only daughter of Dr and Mrs A. Giordani, of St John's Wood, London.

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Lost youth: An elegant Victorian statue by John Henry Foley which has been found behind the organ in the Albert Hall after being missing for nearly 100 years.

The piece, titled *Youth at the Stream*, was placed in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society in South Kensington in 1869 and disappeared in 1888.

Science report

Antlers help to re-date Stonehenge

By Norman Hammond, Archaeology Correspondent

THE ARTS

Television

Illusions of Lambeth

They were a tidy lot, the boys and girls of Lambeth in the late 1950s; not so much bothered about getting a job as about a lot of cigarettes to take. They smoked that label, and appeared that label, and appeared that label, and appeared that label...

Dennis Hackett



TIMES CLASSIFIED

How Mr. C sold his house in under 24 hours:

"I placed an advertisement in The Times Classified. The day the property was advertised, I sold it for the asking price to the first caller. I would obviously use The Times again."

To advertise your property in The Times Classified, telephone: 01-837 3333/3311.

Focus on The Times Classified

Cinema: David Robinson finds too little cause for turn-of-the-year complacency Pandering to the taste for unreality



Most likable... and most ludicrous: Maggie Smith with Betty the pig in Malcolm Mowbray's A Private Function; and Bo Derek in Bolero

Dance The Nutcracker Covent Garden

Barry Wordsworth took over from Bezdadevnyak as the conductor of the Royal Ballet's Nutcracker on Tuesday, and although the result was not such an inspired performance musically, it was still a very decent one. Just as well, since Tchaikovsky's score is the only plausible explanation of the decision to mount the new production.

Nineteen eighty-four will not go down in history as one of the cinema's vintage years. The signs of the times, indicated by films which cost tens of millions of dollars but costumed their profits and success in hundreds of millions, proved the economic dominance of an unsophisticated juvenile audience of a progressively falling age-group. This audience, paying the piper and calling the tune, made clear its preference for undemanding, not to say mindless, fun, enhanced by unrelenting spectacular special effects. Indiana Jones, Gremlins and Ghostbusters show that conjuring tricks count for more in Hollywood today than character or drama.

Best film from any source: Edgar Reitz's Heimat (West Germany), an epic panorama of the past half-century, set in a German village but universal in its record of the changing quality of life.

Best English-language film: Woody Allen's Broadway Danny Rose.

Best director(s): The Taviani Brothers, for AAos.

Best newcomers: Malcolm Mowbray, for A Private Function; Richard Lowenstein, for Strikebound.

Best script: Alan Bennett, for A Private Function.

Best actor: Harry Dean Stanton, in Paris, Texas.

Best actress: Pascale Ogier, in Full Moon in Paris.

Most underrated film: Richard Eyre's Laughinghouse (though it did win the Venice Festival award for the best film made for television).

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Turkeys of the year: Jon Derek's Bolero; Peter Webb's Give My Regards to Broad Street.

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Best actor: Harry Dean Stanton, in Paris, Texas.

Best actress: Pascale Ogier, in Full Moon in Paris.

Advertisement for the film 'A Man Like Eva' featuring a woman's portrait and promotional text.

Advertisement for 'A Man Like Eva' with text: 'Passion and Obsession Sexuality and Despair Desire and Death A man who loves men and women'.

Advertisement for 'PILOBOLUS ARE COMING' at Sadler's Wells Theatre, featuring a cartoon illustration of a man and a woman.

Advertisement for a concert by Markham/Nettle at Wigmore Hall, featuring a photograph of the pianists.

Large advertisement for the opera 'Mazeppa' at the English National Opera, London Coliseum, featuring promotional text and the ENO logo.

Advertisement for 'THE SECRETARY' at Wyndham's Theatre, featuring a cartoon illustration of a mole.

Advertisement for 'LONDON ARTS CHOICE' featuring a list of various theatrical productions and their venues.

Advertisement for 'PHOTOSALES' featuring text about prints of The Times and Sunday Times photographs.

Advertisement for 'THE COMPANY OF WOLVES' at the Lumiere Cinema, featuring a wolf's head illustration.

Large advertisement for 'La crème de la crème' perfume, featuring a decorative crest and promotional text.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page.

If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card.

Table with 4 columns: No., Company, Price, Dividend. Lists various companies like Brown Boveri, Boveri, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns for days of the week (MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUN) and a Total column.

Claimants should ring 0254-53772

BRITISH FUNDS

Table listing various British funds with columns for Name, Price, Dividend, and % P/E.

BREWERIES

Table listing brewery companies like AB InBev, Carlsberg, etc.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table listing bank discount companies like Abbey National, etc.

ELECTRICALS

Table listing electrical companies like BSC, etc.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Equities and gilts tumble

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 24. Dealings End, Jan 11. Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table listing companies in the BUILDING AND ROADS sector.

Table listing companies in the FINANCE AND LAND sector.

Table listing companies in the FOODS sector.

Table listing companies in the CHEMICALS, PLASTICS sector.

Table listing companies in the CINEMAS AND TV sector.

Table listing companies in the DRAPERY AND STORES sector.

Table listing companies in the HOTELS AND CATERERS sector.

Table listing companies in the INDUSTRIALS A-D sector.

Table listing companies in the E-K sector.

Table listing companies in the L-R sector.

Table listing companies in the M-N sector.

Table listing companies in the O-P sector.

Table listing companies in the Q-R sector.

Table listing companies in the S-Z sector.

Table listing companies in the T-V sector.

Table listing companies in the W-X sector.

Table listing companies in the Y-Z sector.

Table listing companies in the AA-AD sector.

Table listing companies in the AE-AG sector.

Table listing companies in the AH-AL sector.

Table listing companies in the AM-AN sector.

Table listing companies in the AO-AP sector.

Table listing companies in the AQ-AR sector.

Table listing companies in the AS-AT sector.

Table listing companies in the AU-AV sector.

Table listing companies in the AW-AX sector.

Table listing companies in the AY-AZ sector.

Table listing companies in the BA-BB sector.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. Claims required for -13 points. Claimants should ring 0254-53772.

Table listing companies in the OIL sector.

Table listing companies in the OVERSEAS TRADERS sector.

Table listing companies in the PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G sector.

Table listing companies in the PROPERTY sector.

Table listing companies in the SHIPPING sector.

Table listing companies in the SHOES AND LEATHER sector.

Table listing companies in the TEXTILES sector.

Table listing companies in the TOBACCO sector.

Table listing companies in the NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS sector.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Manil deal more' and other fragments.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Chancellor watches as the bull market bleeds

Material factors rarely change dramatically within the space of 48 hours. The Stock Exchange perception of them frequently does. For some weeks the equity market has tended to ignore, or interpret in a kinder light, factors which caused the gilt-edged market to turn sour. In the last two days perceptions have converged: ordinary shares have taken flight. But the time to despair is not yet.

There were indications last night that if only the Treasury and Bank of England would yield half a point and let bank base rates rise to 10 per cent, the market would immediately feel pleased that it has drawn blood from the Chancellor. Tensions would then ease.

The problem for the market is to decide whether the Government is firm in its resolve, bloody-minded in its attitude, or simply at a loss which way to turn. Any government which demonstrates complete unconcern about the values of the currency is inviting trouble in the City and in the financial world at large. It is also inviting speculation against the pound, which appears to have been cast into a bottomless pit.

To assert that, in the face of a celestial dollar, there is nothing either Treasury or Bank of England can do is absurd. The central pillar of the Government's economic strategy is targeted money supply; if that pillar is seen to wobble and the high prices and temple-stone masons seem unprepared to take any action at all, then the market will take flight.

Tuesday, when the December money supply figures are due to be released, is important, though perhaps not as important as the day when the January figures are published. If the December figures are not excessive, the distortions caused by the British Telecom issue might be tolerated as the main explanation. But almost any increase in money growth at this stage would justify a temporary increase in bank base rates. If nothing else, it would show that the authorities care about the domestic scene, including the coming need to resume funding, even if they continue to shrug their shoulders over the plight of the pound.

If the gilt-edged market were encouraged to relax a little, it would help calm the equity market. There is a great deal of money in the system seeking outlets. The supply-demand situation in ordinary shares is weighted on the demand side. The expectation of tax cuts on March 19 remains firm and, if realized, economic activity would be given a timely boost.

The bull market is not yet mortally bleeding.

Midland has little room for manoeuvre

The stock market yesterday acted with due consideration to suggestions that Midland Bank is in imminent danger of receiving a takeover bid. It marked the bank's shares down a further 10p to 337p, making a fall of 37p since the world was informed that Crocker National Corporation, Midland's Californian banking affiliate, was in even deeper trouble than had been feared.

While it has to be conceded that anything might happen in this confused and rapidly changing situation, the market's verdict has the ring of truth. Only the bravest of bidders would sail in now, while the fog is still swirling round Crocker's loan book and while Sir Donald Barron, Midland's chairman, is able to point out, with some conviction, that the outlook for the US economy is still so uncertain.

Six months hence Midland might cost more than the present £800 million to take over, but it should by then be a considerably safer bet.

Whether the principal issue turns out to be a merger or an attempt to shore up Midland's weakened capital base, it is hard to avoid the suspicion that this is going to prove another test for the Bank of England's capacity as a supervisor and protector of the banking sector. The episode of Johnson Matthey Bankers revealed the Bank's limitations.

As far as Midland is concerned, the horse has long since bolted and the bank is in any case under the jurisdiction of a foreign authority. But Sir Donald left his audience in no doubt on Wednesday that the Bank of England has been closed long and frequently with senior executives of Midland in a combined search for a solution.

The trouble is that Midland's room for manoeuvre is severely circumscribed. A rights issue is out: even at the deepest of discounts, it would put too much strain on shareholders' pockets, not to mention their loyalty. Any loan capital would inevitably be at poor terms, but then the banks themselves always were hardest on those who really needed money.

There is no doubt that Sir Donald and his top team are straining every sinew to untie their straitjacket. The chairman is under no illusions about the size of the task, though he maintains that "the ongoing situation is entirely satisfactory," but not that "the situation" is. They are right to resist sales of either Samuel Montagu or Thomas Cook. Neither would do much to help. Midland is now at the mercy of certain forces beyond its control. It is also reaping the whirlwind of its own record of misjudgment and mismanagement.

More talent joins Hanson Trust

The appointment of Hugh Ashton to the board of Hanson Trust will strengthen what, judged by its string of takeover successes, must already be one of the finest corporate finance teams of any British company.

Mr Ashton has already been part of that success. As the head of J Henry Schroder Wagg's corporate finance team since 1979, he advised Hanson in its hard fought battle to win United Drapery Stores, Rothschilds, Hanson's own merchant bank, was advising Mr Gerald Ronson's Bassishaw consortium.

The appointment is somewhat unusual for Hanson, which prefers to grow its own talent. John Pattison was made a director in 1981, also from a merchant bank although he had been a director of Hanson Trust several years earlier, and Alan Hagdrup was an outside legal appointment. Otherwise the board members have come up through the ranks and most have been in place for a good number of years.

Mr Ashton's appointment should not be seen as the start of a new policy to bring in outside management. After a period of dramatic growth in which Hanson's profits have climbed from £31.2 million in 1979 to £169.1 million in 1984 and net assets have grown from £160 million to £560 million, it might be expected that Hanson would be somewhat short of home-grown management. But the company insists it has enormous talent within the organization.

Mr Ashton will not have any specific areas of responsibility, but his experience in takeover battles should keep him busy in such an acquisitive-minded organization. His years in the US drumming up new business for Schroders will also be useful given the large and growing Hanson American presence.

LME chairman's firm to end London futures broking

By Michael Prest

Lonconex, one of the leading ring dealing members of the London Metal Exchange, is to withdraw from commodity futures broking in London. The retreat will be embarrassing not just for the LME but especially for Mr Michael Brown, chairman of Lonconex, because he is also chairman of the committee of the LME.

The withdrawal is part of a worldwide disengagement from futures broking by the Golodetz group, the American family-run commodity trader which has controlled Lonconex since the beginning of the century.

Golodetz's decision to pull out of commodity futures broking is the latest example of the worldwide retrenchment in the industry. Intense competition has pared commissions

and persistent bear markets have reduced turnover for many firms. Last month, Golodetz wrote to clients explaining his decision. The letter began "For some time the Golodetz group has considered futures broking as peripheral to its main interests in commodity trading." This is interpreted as meaning that the group will concentrate on physical trading using brokers and their credit as necessary.

The letter went on to explain that the Golodetz and Ginsberg families who own the company had tried to sell it to Citibank, the American bank, but the bank had not been able to obtain permission from the Federal Reserve Board for the diversification. There was not

enough time to find another purchaser, the letter added. Clients of Golodetz were then told: "The shareholders have therefore directed that Lonconex will start to reduce its business activities with a view to an eventual orderly withdrawal from all futures markets where it has a substantial presence."

Yesterday, Mr Brown said: "Lonconex will cease to exist as a commodity broker and physical trader." He would not say how quickly the business will be wound down, but it could take three to four months. Most of the 90 staff, including Mr Brown, will lose their jobs.

The irony is that earlier in December Lonconex had been re-elected as a ring dealing member of the LME. The

exchange's slim rulebook does not specify the standing of the committee chairman in such a situation, but sources close to the LME said that they expected Mr Brown to tender his resignation at next Wednesday's committee meeting.

It is thought likely, however, that the committee will refuse to accept the resignation and that Mr Brown will remain as chairman until his personal future is clear.

Apart from the embarrassment which the episode is bound to cause the LME, it underlines the highly cyclical character of the commodity futures business. Big American commission houses such as Drexel Burnham Lambert and Merrill Lynch have made many employees redundant.

Lonrho men bow out

Lord Duncan-Sandys and Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland yesterday gave up their seats on the board of House of Fraser, the department stores group, to Messrs Muhammad and Ali Al-Fayed. This comes after the deal on November 2 last year when the Al-Fayed's bought 29 per cent of Fraser from Lonrho, Mr Rowland's master company.

The board changes were expected to follow immediately upon the share transaction. But within a few days Lonrho had bought another 4.6 per cent of Fraser through the market, later increased to 6.3 per cent, and was insisting that neither Mr Rowland nor Lord Duncan-Sandys would resign from the Fraser board voluntarily.



Out: Lord Duncan-Sandys (left) and Mr "Tiny" Rowland.

Benzol losses

British Benzol Carbonising is again passing the interim dividend (nil) after announcing pretax losses of £522,000 (£26,000 profit) for the six months to September 30. The losses per share amount to 2.3p. Tempus, page 17

Deputy chairman

Sir Anthony Tuke has been appointed a deputy chairman of Royal Insurance. Sir Max Williams, senior partner at Clifford-Turner, has been appointed a director.

Luxembourg (Reuters) - The European Economic Community's annual inflation rate fell to 6.5 per cent in November, the lowest since before the 1973 oil crisis, according to official figures. West Germany had the lowest rate at 2 per cent.

Profit certain

American Motors Corporation, whose main shareholder is Renault of France, said in Detroit that it is certain of a profit for the year, making 1984 the first profitable year for the company since 1979.

Change at Pru

Mr Jim Findlay, managing director of Prudential Portfolio Managers, the investment management arm of Prudential Corporation, has taken control of all international investments. He succeeds Mr John Sherriff, who has left for personal reasons.

Mergers cleared

Proposed mergers between Greycoat Offices, Churchbury Estates and Law Land, between Ladbroke Group and Comfort Hotels, and between Intasun and Comfort Hotels are not to be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has decided.

Israeli inquiry

An Israeli ministerial committee headed by the Prime Minister Shimon Peres has recommended a State inquiry into the 1983 collapse of commercial bank shares the justice minister Mr Moshe Nissim said.

Allied-Lyons chief resigns

By William Kay, City Editor

A wide-ranging reorganization of Allied-Lyons's beer division is expected to be announced next week after the sudden resignation from the main board of Mr Douglas Strachan, the director responsible for beer.

Allied-Lyons, whose interests extend to wine, spirits, tea and cakes, sells beer under the names of Double Diamond, Ind Coope, Long Life, Romford, John Bull, Tetley and Taylor Walker. It also makes Skol Lager.

Yesterday the company was making no comment beyond the terse one-line statement of Mr Strachan's departure. Aged 51, he has been with the group since 1972, joining the board of

the Allied Breweries subsidiary in 1976 and becoming managing director of the beer division in 1978. His predecessor in that job, Mr Bernard Kilkenny, left after a policy disagreement and is now with Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.

It is apparent that Allied wanted to make this announcement simultaneously with the other changes planned for next Tuesday. But it felt legally obliged to record the resignation yesterday.

The news took brewery analysts by surprise. But some pointed out that Allied had suffered lately at the hands of Bass in the fight for increased share of the static British beer market.

Gold fights back after \$299.5 fix

By Our City Staff

After testing on the brink for days gold finally slid below \$300 an ounce yesterday to trade briefly during the morning in London at \$299 before being fixed at \$299.50, the lowest since June 21, 1982. But the metal then fought back to close \$4 higher at \$303.50, about the same price as when it opened.

Silver fell to \$5.98 an ounce, the lowest since August 1982. Trading was not heavy, but exactly morning selling from Switzerland quickly brought gold down from Wednesday's close of \$304. After touching \$299 the price inched back to \$301 before a lack of support pushed it down to the morning fix price.

As the dollar failed to make further ground against sterling and some traders hurried to cover short positions the metal recovered again in the afternoon, being fixed at \$302.50. Dealers said there was a possibility that some of the big participants in the market, especially the gold mines, had intervened to bolster the price.

But London analysts still feel that gold is very weak even though there could be a short-term recovery to around \$310. Mr Alan Davison of Shearson Lehman/American Express said: "The big players will support gold for a bit, if it is fixed below \$295 it could fall rapidly."

While yesterday's slight appreciation of sterling against the dollar has helped gold, the metal is coming under new pressure from falling oil prices.



Sheikh Yamani: soon to review price differentials

North Sea spot oil price falls

By Jonathan Davis, Business Correspondent

The price of North Sea oil fell sharply on the spot market yesterday, reinforcing the expectation that Britain and Norway will soon be forced to make fresh reductions in the official price of their oil.

Doubts about the ability of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to make its latest price and production rationing agreement stick were also heightened by conflicting reports about where and when the Opec ministers will hold their next meeting.

Unconfirmed reports within the industry said that Saudi Arabia could be facing a "buyers strike" from Aramco, the American oil company consortium which lifts the bulk of Saudi oil production.

On the spot market, North Sea Forties crude was quoted at \$26.20 a barrel, 40 cents below the previous day's level. North Sea Brent crude was 15 cents a barrel down in quotations for January delivery, and 30 cents down for February delivery.

The British National Oil Corporation is continuing its "wait and see" policy on prices, refusing to propose a new official price until the market has had more time to settle down after last month's Opec agreement.

Reports from Abu Dhabi yesterday indicated that a committee of seven Opec members led by the Saudi oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, will meet on January 18 to review the tentative agreement on price differentials between different grades of crude.

Fidentia pair face legal action

By Alison Eadie

Lloyd's names on Brooks & Dooley syndicates look certain to sue Mr Terence Dooley, Mr Raymond Brooks and the underwriting agency they formerly managed, Brooks and Dooley (Underwriting Agency).

A representative committee of names wrote to the 1,000 Brooks & Dooley names last month recommending litigation and asking for financial support to pay legal costs. Mr Mark Farrer, chairman of the committee and a partner of the solicitors Farrer & Co, said that although some names have only just received the committee's letter, the response so far indicates there will be more than enough financial support to litigate.

Lloyd's last month expelled Mr Brooks and suspended Mr Dooley for 21 months after its investigations showed that the two underwriters had benefited from reinsurance contracts placed with Fidentia Marine Insurance Company of Bermuda, which they both controlled. Fidentia gained a net £6.2 million from Brooks and Dooley syndicates over 13 years, while the names on the syndicates were unaware of the existence of Fidentia.

The representative committee of names has asked names on Brooks and Dooley syndicates to send cheques for £250, if they were on the syndicates before 1977, and for £125 if they joined after 1977.

Broker to lose property team

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee, the stockbroking firm in which Citycorp took a 29.9 per cent stake last year, is to lose most of its property analysis team. Three of its four members are leaving within the next few months to work in smaller organizations more directly involved in property development.

Mr Naresh Gudka who leads Scrimgeour's team is to stay and he will have the task of rebuilding it. Mr Will Martin, Mr Gareth Evans and Mr Alan Carter have decided to go, although they point out that

this is no reflection on Scrimgeour. Mr Will Martin, a partner in the stockbrokers, is going to work for the Glasgow private property development company Cal Trust, but will be based in London. Mr Martin said, "I am leaving because of changes in the industry and am thinking about my future. I could have stayed with Scrimgeour's for five years and picked up a lot of money as a partner, but money is not the only important thing. I want to do deals in a property company in an industry that is secure for me."

Mr Evans and Mr Carter are going to join W I Carr Overseas, the subsidiary of Exco which specializes in broking in the Far East. Mr Evans said that the move would enable him to get established in property again in a small firm where he could have a say.

Mr Gudka is left with the task of rebuilding his team, a job he has done before when he brought the present group to Scrimgeour more than two years ago. This move could well be the first of many. Those who work in the new financial conglomerates are concerned about the possibility of a price cutting war

Manila debt deal needs more work

Manila (Reuters) - The documentation of the agreement between the Philippines and its creditor banks may not be completed until well into next month, a spokesman for the Central Bank in Manila said yesterday.

The two sides reached agreement last month for \$925 million (£805 million) in new loans and the restoration of \$3 billion in trade credits.

Central Bank sources said the first of the new money will be used for interest payments and other arrears. These have mounted since the Philippines declared a moratorium on its debt payments in October 1983.

Senior Gabriel Singson, Central Bank deputy governor, left yesterday for New York to join discussions on terms for the trade credits and new loans. Senior Jose Fernandez, the bank governor, has already been in the United States since last month.

Details also have to be completed on rescheduling about \$5.75 billion in foreign debts.

Brazil's Opposition Presidential candidate, Senator Tancredino Neves, yesterday ruled out a moratorium as a means of resolving the country's \$100 billion (£87 billion) debt problem, according to Brazilian newspapers (Reuters adds from Rio de Janeiro).

"A moratorium was never in my plans" the former Prime Minister was quoted as saying. "No civilized country... would adopt so radical and violent a solution," he said.

Hoskins bid raised to £8m

By Our City Staff

The Scottish Heritable Trust has again raised its offer for Hoskins & Horton, the building supplies, contracting and hospital equipment group, to £8.3 million, topping the £7.6 million agreed bid from London & Midland Industrials.

Hoskins has not yet decided on its response. It rejected the SHT's previous bid worth £7.4 million and accepted LMI's offer, which bound it to sell its building materials and civil engineering operations to Redland for £4 million.

SHT is interested in the building materials side, particularly the sand and gravel works. It has built up a 28.8 per cent stake in Hoskins over the past five years chiefly because of its quarrying businesses.

SHT, a holding company, has sand and gravel quarrying interests, also based in the West Midlands. SHT is, however, reserving its position on the Horton division.

It says a decision on the ultimate retention of the division will take into account the support of the director's of Hoskins to split up the group. LMI is still considering what action to take after SHT's revised offer. The new terms are 10 SHT shares and 315p cash for three Hoskins shares, with a cash alternative of 288p.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns: STOCK MARKETS, MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES, GOLD. Includes data for FT Ind Ord, FT-A All Share, FT Govt Securities, etc.

Table with columns: MAIN PRICE CHANGES, CURRENCIES, INTEREST RATES. Includes data for Biomechanics, Renault Motor, etc.

Bigger US deficit forecast

Washington (Reuters) - White House budget analysts say the federal budget deficit for the 1985 fiscal year will be slightly lower than previously forecast, but even deeper than expected in fiscal 1986, 1987, and 1988, according to Reagan Administration sources.

The 1985 deficit is now projected at \$205 billion (£179 billion), compared with \$210 billion estimated in November.

But deficits are now projected to rise to about \$217 billion in 1986, \$233 billion in 1987, and \$228 billion in 1988 if there are no policy changes. That compares with previous estimates of \$286 billion, \$225 billion and \$217 billion respectively.

"Off budget" expenditures, including outlays for the strategic petroleum reserve and loans financed through federal financing bank, will raise the deficit figures to \$218 billion in 1985, \$225 billion in 1986, \$240 billion in 1987, and \$235 billion in 1988.

The latest estimates, presented by the budget director, Mr David Stockman, to congressional leaders yesterday, means that spending will have to be cut by about \$266 billion over the next three years to meet President Reagan's goal of a \$100 billion deficit for fiscal 1988. That is about \$29 billion more than previously estimated.

Mr Reagan has identified about \$42 billion of cuts for fiscal 1986, beginning on October 1, but Mr Stockman says that is about \$12 billion more than now appears necessary.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To Holders Of International Standard Electric Corporation 8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the holders of outstanding 8 1/4% Sinking Fund Debentures due 1986 (the "Debentures") of International Standard Electric Corporation (the "Company") that in accordance with Section 3.02 of the Indenture dated January 1, 1971 (the "Indenture") among the Company, International Standard Electric Corporation, and Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association (the "Trustee"), the Company has elected to redeem all of the outstanding Debentures on February 1, 1985 (the "Redemption Date") through the operation of the Sinking Fund at 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with interest thereon at the rate of 8 1/4% per annum to the Redemption Date.

On February 1, 1985, the Debentures will become due and payable and are required to be presented and surrendered for redemption and payment on or before said date at the following places of payment:

Table listing payment locations: Citibank N.A., 111 Wall Street, New York, New York, U.S.A.; Credito Italiano Milan, Italy; Banque Generale du Luxembourg S.A., Luxembourg; Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, London, England; Algemene Bank Nederland N.V., Amsterdam, Netherlands; Banque de Bruxelles S.A., Brussels, Belgium; Deutsche Bank Aktiengesellschaft Frankfurt/Main, Federal Republic of Germany; Banque Nationale de Paris S.A., Paris, France.

The Debentures must be accompanied by all interest coupons appertaining thereto maturing after February 1, 1985. Interest on the Debentures will cease to accrue from and after February 1, 1985 and the interest coupons appertaining thereto maturing after said date shall be void.

It is required by the Internal Revenue Service that if you are a U.S. citizen you must provide your Social Security number when submitting bonds for redemption.

International Standard Electric Corporation BY BANK OF AMERICA NATIONAL TRUST & SAVINGS ASSOCIATION Trustee Dated: December 28, 1984

WALL STREET

Table of stock market data including AMF Inc, AMR, Allied Corp, Amstar, etc. Columns include company name, price, and change.

Early fall for Dow

New York (Agency) - The Wall Street stock market headed lower in early moderate trading yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average, which fell 12.70 to 1,198.57 on Wednesday, was down 1.65 to 1,197.22.

COMMODITIES

Table of commodity prices including LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, COCOA, LEAD, ZINC HIGH GRADE, MEAT AND LIVESTOCK COMMODITIES, etc.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table of money market and gold data including The market opened in a very jittery state, a continuation of the base rate fears that had lifted rates sharply on Wednesday, and various interest rate and gold price listings.

APPOINTMENTS

Lawrie Group: Mr P N A Grant, Mr P F Pepperell and Mr M C Perkins have joined the board. Mr Morgan Crucible Company: Mr Irvine Simpson has been appointed company secretary in place of Mr Adrian Davis.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of investment trusts including 1984-85 High/Low, 1984-85 High/Low, etc. Columns include company name, price, and performance metrics.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table of foreign exchange rates including Dollar spot rates, Sterling spot and forward rates, and other sterling rates.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table of London financial futures including Three Month Sterling, Three Month Eurodollar, US Treasury Bond, Long Gilt, FT-SE 100, etc.

GENERAL MOTORS

General Motors was unchanged 77%, Ford was up 1/2 to 44%, and Chrysler was down 1/2 to 31%. IBM fell 1/2 to 120 1/2, Digital Equipment fell 1/2 to 108 1/2, Burroughs fell 1/2 to 56 1/2.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts including 1984-85 High/Low, 1984-85 High/Low, etc. Columns include company name, price, and performance metrics.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table of financial trusts including 1984-85 High/Low, 1984-85 High/Low, etc. Columns include company name, price, and performance metrics.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table of sterling spot and forward rates including Market rates, Market rates, etc. Columns include rate type, rate value, and date.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Table of authorized unit trusts including 1984-85 Bid Offer Yield, 1984-85 Bid Offer Yield, etc. Columns include fund name, bid price, offer price, and yield.

AUTHORIZED UNIT TRUSTS

Table of authorized unit trusts including 1984-85 Bid Offer Yield, 1984-85 Bid Offer Yield, etc. Columns include fund name, bid price, offer price, and yield.

COMPANY NEWS

CLAYMORE: drilling has been halted on the Claymore platform because of a crack found in one of the platform legs during routine sub-sea inspection before Christmas. WESTERN BOARD MILLS: By Wednesday, closing date of the offer, acceptances for the new David S Smith ordinary shares had received in respect of 4,649,727 ordinary shares of Western (87.91 per cent).

COMPANY NEWS

Pearl hit by Budget premium changes: Pearl Assurance revealed an unspectacular performance for last year in figures announced yesterday. In the industrial and ordinary branches, combined total new premiums rose just over £10 million to £92.1 million in 1984 from £81.9 million in 1983. This was made up of new annual premiums of £57.3 million, compared with £57.8 million the previous year, and single premiums of £36.8 million, up from £24.1 million. The new premiums provide for total new sums assured of £94.3 million, a reduction of 8 per cent from last year's total of £103.6 million.

THE TIMES

1785-1985

How the City laid its foundations

Streets of small tradesmen, flanked to the east and west by the great markets of Leadenhall, Billingsgate and Smithfield, regularly invaded by carloads of exotic imports from the docks and slowly being brought under the influence of the Bank of England. That was the pattern of the City as the first copies of The Daily Universal Register came off the presses.



This was the scene near the Bank two centuries ago

More importantly, the principal markets of today were in place two centuries ago. Commodities, foreign exchange, company stock, insurance and banking were flourishing and for nearly a hundred years the Bank of England had been presiding over them.

In 1785, shipping and commodities were the biggest preoccupations, as the advertisements in the early editions of The Daily Universal Register show. Anyone who had some business to do would make his way along the cobbled streets, past the street criers to a coffee house.

At the Jamaica you could talk the prices of molasses from the West Indies trade, while down the road at the Jerusalem you might hear about Indian spices or China tea.

However, this delightfully informal system was being regularized. Less was being left to chance meetings in the coffee houses. Space could be booked for auctions of anything from sugar and spice to the ships that brought them to London.

For the price of their catering skills, the coffee house owners were unwittingly lending credibility to anyone who wanted to borrow their name to sell his

goods. In the short term it was good for business but, as the proprietors of Lloyd's and Jonathan's discovered the hard way, in the long run these easy-going arrangements could be abused and become self-defeating.

In 1773 both the stock and insurance markets moved out of their old coffee shop haunts and formed themselves into private clubs with their own premises.

Lloyd's retains the name of its old base, but the insurance underwriters found themselves rooms above the Royal Exchange because the coffee house was turning into a gambling den for the bizarre bets which were then fashionable.

Jonathan's had been the centre for exchanging stock, but attempts to impose a code of behaviour in the stock market had been thwarted by the fact that Jonathan's, like Lloyd's, was ultimately open to any member of the public who wanted refreshment.

So it was supplanted by New Jonathan's, which charged sixpence a day entrance money and was also known as The

Stock Exchange. The historical debt is still recognized: the present Stock Exchange Tower houses a members' bar and restaurant called Jonathan's.

But few of the City's inhabitants then aspired to owning stock. They were much more concerned with commodities and shipping news. The early business coverage of The Daily Universal Register was largely devoted to the latest news of shipping movements at home and abroad, along with lists of cargo landings. These included anchovies, aniseeds, beeswax, juniper berries and elephants' teeth at £51 a hundredweight.

As today, the stock market was largely devoted to floating and dealing in government debt. In April 1785 William Pitt proposed the novel idea of a sinking fund to eliminate that debt.

The Daily Universal Register gave the plan a vociferous welcome. "A most glorious prospect opens to posterity of an exemption from above two-thirds of the taxes which now lie like an incubus on the nation, enervating her powers, curbing her exertions, and loading her faculties with the most severe

and dispiriting burthens", it said. But the dangers were already obvious. The paper added: "Mr Pitt has declared that the produce of this fund must be locked up by every restraint in the power of legislative ingenuity to form, lest it should become a prey to the rapacity of future Ministers."

The successors of the men originally commissioned to carry out that task are still toiling away. The stockbroker they employed to buy in the debt was Benjamin Cole. He became known as the Government Broker and his firm became part of Mullens & Co, which has provided the Government Broker ever since. That line will come to an end next year, when the present GB, Sir Nigel Althaus, will join the Bank of England.

Three companies dominated the stock market of 1785: the Bank of England and the South Seas Company, based in Threadneedle Street, and the East India Company, whose offices were in Leadenhall Street.

The South Seas was the very one which had inspired the

notorious stock market Bubble more than 60 years earlier. It was set up on similar lines to the Bank. Both were created under Royal Charter to lend money to the Government in return for being given trading privileges.

The South Seas never gained the stature of the other two, and was overshadowed by the stirring achievements of the East India Company, one of the first and most successful conglomerates.

The East India would trade in anything which could be brought from India. It had warehouses throughout the City, and thousands of local people were dependent on the company for their livelihoods. It also lent to the Government, and floated its Indian Bonds on the stock market. Eventually the company's power in India grew so far that it became embroiled with the politics of governing the sub-continent.

In its first week The Daily Universal Register was attacking the East India Company for the "inordinate" profits it was making on tea, buying it for 1s 2d per pound and selling it for 4s 1d, more than four times as much.

A month later the company raised a loan of 7 million Dutch guilders for 60 years, the interest to be distributed through a lottery.

In 1785 there was little chance to invest in anything resembling ordinary shares. The banks could finance most of what capital spending was required. Rich men like the Duke of Bridgewater were building canals, and new economies of scale were taking the brewers out of the back rooms of alehouses and into their own breweries.

That would not begin in earnest until mechanization in peace and war produced much greater demands for capital, and the imaginative ideas which could conjure that capital into the hands of those able to make use of it.

It was to be another 13 years after the birth of The Daily Universal Register that Nathaniel Mayer Rothschild arrived in this country. But many of the issues which beset the City in 1785, such as Cazenove, de Zoete, Capel and Barclay, were beginning to make themselves felt.

William Kay

TEMPUS

Tax problems multiply as sterling slumps

The advantages of weak sterling have not been lost on those British companies which trade overseas and have found their products becoming miraculously competitive. Similarly, the buoyancy of the US economy has lured many British companies to set their sights firmly on North America as a source of growth and expansion. This increased attention on overseas markets has, however, brought its problems in the shape of a growing international tax burden.

Over recent months the vagaries of international taxation legislation have been clearly demonstrated. Some companies have reported falling pretax profits or even losses yet an increased tax charge because of the impact of taxation on overseas earnings.

It has therefore become more important for companies to arrange their international tax affairs carefully. The problem has been compounded by the recent changes in corporation tax, which will see the basic rate reduce to 35 per cent by 1986, and the introduction of legislation designed to curb international tax avoidance.

Some experts now see the international tax regime within which British companies are obliged to operate as unduly harsh, almost to the extent that it inhibits their ability to compete with their competitors which are taxed under less restrictive laws.

The treatment of foreign tax credits is a clear example of the anomalies companies face. Under British rules credit for foreign tax is given on a source-by-source basis which can result in some credits being lost. In the US, foreign tax credits relating to all sources are lumped together.

Similarly, the British rules do not allow tax credits to be carried forward or back. This is permitted in the US. Since the tax charge is a cost to the company it is easy to see how the British regulation could serve to inhibit competitiveness.

Considering the importance of international tax planning it is timely to have the publication of a booklet covering the main issues by the accountancy firm Deloitte Haskins and Sells. Prepared by Mr Tony Hughes, it highlights the main areas which companies should be looking at and offers some ways of mitigating the liability.

The problem of foreign tax credits can be overcome by setting up an overseas holding company which collects foreign dividends and mixes these payments which have suffered both high and low effective tax rates. A dividend from the overseas holding company to Britain will be regarded as a single source and also as having suffered foreign tax at the average effective rate which has been attracted.

Another difficulty which has faced many British companies has been where they make taxable losses in Britain but profits overseas. With no British tax to set the foreign tax credit against the benefit is lost.

A similar problem can arise where a company has surplus advance corporation tax. In this situation a company might be able to provide a source of income substitution whereby additional British profits are generated. The concept is simple to talk about in theory, but much more difficult to execute in practice.

But the changing international tax regime does provide benefits for overseas companies. The lower basic rate of corporation tax will make Britain more attractive as a place to invest, particularly for companies from Sweden and South Africa where all foreign earned income is exempt from tax.

When the basic tax rate has fallen by 17 per cent to 35 per cent, Britain will become more competitive. Even the loss of capital allowances and stock relief should not be too much of a deterrent, especially for those businesses in the services and distribution sectors which would not have attracted these allowances anyway.

British Benzol

Events during the last nine months at British Benzol Carbonising, the foundry coke producer, sound fairly hair-raising. Effectively, the group has been under siege from mass picketing during the miners' strike, and the dispute has hit the group in output and financial terms.

First half losses of £519,000 look huge, measured against the comparable profit in 1983-84 of £26,000. Two years ago, the group made profits of £284,000. The market's reaction to the group's tribulations has been

predictable. At 11p, down 1/2p yesterday, the shares are no more than option money. Nevertheless, there may be glimmers of hope.

Interim sales are down from £7.1 million to £4.8 million. This reflects the fact that one of the group's mines closed down completely while output at the second has halved. The group draws a veil over difficulties at the coking plant.

However, the balance of opportunity may be swinging back to the group. Coking output is improving, as a partial drift begins to work takes root. Margins, however, have firmed heavily, since coal supplies have been bought in at double the NCB price.

But recent British Benzol acquisitions have performed well. The JC Alford buy produced a substantial improvement in profits, which sounds, pro forma, like a gain from about £65,000 to between £150,000 and £200,000.

British Benzol sounds as if it has the purse and the will to keep going until easier trading conditions prevail.

Tokyo market

Fresh conundrums may lie ahead for world stock markets, if predictions from Tokyo-watchers at Greiferson Grant prove well founded. According to Mr Peter Pleydell-Bouverie, of Greiferson, the Japanese have a rough equivalent of "Sell in May and go away", which freely translated reads: "Sell on Setsubun Day, buy again Higan Zoko Day, Setsubun Day is February 3, and Higan Zoko Day March 20."

Traditionally, Tokyo is firm in the run up to the beginning of February, as the Japanese personal sector flush with Christmas bonus cash, gets the British Telecom habit, and invests in the stock market. Tokyo has been closed over New Year, but Christmas firmness makes it a reasonable possibility that 1985 will start on an impressive note.

A buoyant Tokyo Dow Jones would complete the impressive symmetry of world markets. A typical strong producer economy, like Germany, has been hitting new highs, while both the UK and the US have faltered. A weak market in Tokyo, which would be contrary to trend, might imply growing investors fears that the US rate cycle had bottomed.

Redditch to sell town centre for £17m

By Judith Hamley Commercial Property Correspondent

Redditch New Town in Hereford and Worcester, is selling its town centre to Commercial Union Assurance and the Shell Pension Fund for £17 million. The two funds developed the shopping centre on the site leased from Redditch Development Corporation. The corporation, in line with government policy, is selling off its assets.

Commercial Union and Shell will buy the freehold interest in the respective parts of the centre which they developed, enhancing the value of their assets. Commercial Union has about 350,000 sq ft in the centre, representing almost half the total space.

The rest of the new town's assets are also to be sold. There are two contenders for the commercial and industrial holdings in Redditch. One is the Hartbourn group, an American property consortium, and the other is the Tarmac Group in conjunction with the Globe and Electra Investment Trusts.

The question of who wins the bid has still to be decided and the Development Corporation is to have more talks with the Department of the Environment.

Rented housing will be excluded from the deal as this will be handed to the town council with a package of community buildings which will be financed by an income-generating asset, also to be handed to the council.

The Government decided to sell new town assets in 1979 and since then individual towns and the Commission for the New Towns have disposed of commercial, industrial and residential property.

The Commission was set up in 1962 to take over the assets and management of completed new towns. So far it has taken over eight of the 20 new towns with three more due this year.

The commission, whose chairman is Sir Neil Shields, completed more than £26 million of sales in the first nine months of last year. By April 1983 asset sales in the new towns had reached £360 million with about £210 million coming from the commission's holdings.

Shares have a rough ride as interest rate fears grip investors

By Derek Pain and Cliff Feltham

Shares slipped and slithered yesterday, tormented by worries that interest rates will be forced higher. At the close the FT 30 share blue chip index was nursing a 11.7 points fall at 928.7 points. At one time it was down more than 16 points. The FT-SE index was also off its low point of the day, finishing at 1206.1 points, down 13.9 points.

It was an early wave of jittery selling which caught the market on the hop. Jobbers quickly marked prices down and the selling then dried up. After the first call over prices gradually improved although trading remained fairly light.

Sterling's continuing weakness and the uncertainty over oil prices have taken the shine off the market in the opening days of this year following the triumphant 1984 performance which took shares to a new peak.

In the first two trading days of a year which is expected to witness the FT 30 share index hitting new peaks the index has fallen 23.6 points. But, apart of yesterday's first 30 minutes, selling has been modest. One market man commented: "A slight correction after the festive joy was overdue".

Most market men believe Associated Furniture Holdings, coming to the over-the-counter market courtesy of Harvard Securities, expects profits of £410,000 this year. In the nine months ended last September it achieved only £2,000. The company feels unable, however, to give a profit indication for last year as a whole although it suggests its turnover was £950,000. AFH, which is involved in office furniture, is coming at 25p a share offering a projected 1985 P/E of 8.2.

that interest rates, until recently pointing downwards, will remain unchanged assuming there is no further sharp deterioration, until next week's money supply figures. If the figures are again poor then the trigger for higher interest rates will, as it was when sterling was under pressure last year, be pulled.

Government stocks, predictably, wilted under such pressure recording falls of up to 3%. Few lending equities managed to beat the downward drift. One to achieve such a feat was Imperial Group on thoughts that the sale of its

troublesome American catering and hotel group, Howard Johnson, is near. Grand Metropolitan fell 10p to 298p. The group surprised the market by financing its latest acquisition by a share placing rather than through borrowings. It placed, through stockbrokers Panmure Gordon and Co and Cazenove and Co, 37 million shares at 290 pence each to raise £107 million. The placing represents 4.8 per cent of the enlarged capital.

The cash raising exercise was to finance the takeover of Quality Care, one of the largest groups in the fast growing American home care business. Beer shares were weakened

going on to say that detailed consideration was being given to its future trading operations. "Preliminary discussions are taking place which may lead to proposals being put to shareholders."

The landlubbers in the City read this as a hint of a forthcoming capital reconstruction. Not so, said the secretary, Mr Eric Cretney from IoM's Douglas headquarters.

He said: "We have had a poor season from tourism and we are talking to our financial advisers about ways to tackle the problems on some of our routes. We have been sailing for 150 years and hope to be around in another 150 years."

Shares of J A Devenish, the West Country brewery, jumped 50p to 469p yesterday after details of a reorganization were outlined and Sheppards and Chase, the stockbroker, issued a circular recommending the stock. Mr Alister Hitchens, of Sheppards and Chase, expects present year profits to rise from a little over £2 million to £2.6 million. The company, where the Whitbread brewing group has about 26 per cent of the capital, has an asset backing of approaching £11 a share. Regional brewery shares have had a weak time in the past 18 months but Sheppards is now taking a much more optimistic stance about their prospects.

by the 3.9 per cent decline in November beer production. In the first 11 months of last year beer output was little changed compared with the corresponding period of the previous year. Allied-Lyons, down 6p at 159p, was unsettled by the unexpected and sudden departure of brewing director, Mr Douglas Strachan.

Total Group's shares fell 3 1/2p to 60 1/2p on news that Entrad, the Australian textiles company, had sold 400,000 Total shares reducing its stake to 6.99 per cent from 7.2 per cent. Tricontinental Holdings of Melbourne, an Australian banking group, has acquired an interest as mortgages in Entrad's Total shares.

Entrad started stake building in October and was understood to want to increase its stake to about 20 per cent and obtain board representation. It informed the Sydney stock exchange that it had no intention of bidding for Total.

Isle of Man Steam Packet ran into a strong headwind on the stock market which wiped out all of yesterday's 16p gain leaving the shares at 135p.

This followed an intriguing statement from the company noting the recent rise in the price, pointing out that it had suffered adverse trading conditions in the present year, and

Optometrists, the optical equipment firm, picked a bad day to make its debut. Brought

following its heavy investment in building up its Dutch business. Thorn EMI, as was being suggested by some analysts yesterday, is continuing to look "nervy" ahead of the half year statement due next week. Market men are still concerned about the full year and will be looking for some assurances from the chairman, Mr Peter Laister, before relaxing.

The shares eased a further 9p to 462p to take the two day fall to 16p. Some dealers had suggested the shares were about 20p over-priced.

Among speculative stocks Oliver Prospecting and Mining tumbled another 15p - making 45p in two days - as fears grew that it was about to announce a dry well.

Shares in Bath and Portland began to retreat from their high spot, shedding 10p to 290p on reports of a "sell" order.

Redland in £20m Dutch takeover

By Cliff Feltham

In two separate deals yesterday, the British building materials group Redland doubled the size of its business in the Netherlands and sold off its loss-making replacement windows offshoot in the United States.

Redland, with its Dutch partner Bredero, is paying £20 million to take over three ceramic and clay tile companies from DSM, the Dutch state-owned chemical group.

The companies are Moss, which makes ceramic wall and floor tiles, Teewen, clay bricks and concrete roof tiles, and Deconstone, which is involved in the manufacture of kitchen and sanitary ware.

Mr Robert Napier, finance director of Redland, said it was the first time the company had moved into the area of ceramic tiles and if the business proved successful it could raise similar possibilities in Britain.

The acquisitions are expected to double Redland's turnover in the Netherlands to £100 million a year and double its Dutch profits, which were between £1 million and £2 million last year. Although it is not putting any figure on profits of the businesses being acquired, Mr Napier said it represents a "price-earnings ratio on 1984 earnings of eight which we think represents a very good price."

An important part of Moss's sales are in the growing renovation sector. Teewen will complement Redland and Bredero's existing concrete roof tile activities.

Redland has sold its Pennsylvania-based Season-all Industries, which makes replacement windows, for \$15.5 million (£13.4 million).

Redland also lost some ground, 9p lower at 287p. Shares in Bath and Portland began to retreat from their high spot, shedding 10p to 290p on reports of a "sell" order.

Redland also lost some ground, 9p lower at 287p. Shares in Bath and Portland began to retreat from their high spot, shedding 10p to 290p on reports of a "sell" order.

Nottingham eyes Spencer

Nottingham Manufacturing, the clothing supplier to Marks and Spencer, could emerge as a buyer of the main parts of the Nottingham-based George Spencer knitwear and leisurewear company now in the hands of receivers.

He said he expected to find buyers for the Vedonis knitwear companies

Mr Fred Marks of the accountancy firm Peat Marwick and Mitchell, which was

appointed as receivers yesterday after the company said its present financial position left it with no alternative, said: "We have been in touch with Nottingham Manufacturing and they have been in touch with us."

He said he expected to find buyers for the Vedonis knitwear companies

Devenish Breweries - Weymouth & Blandford

Highlights from the statement of the Chairman of J. A. Devenish plc, Mr. R. S. Hargreaves, for the 52 weeks ended 28th September, 1984:

- * Dividend increased - proposed final of 8.25p makes year's total 11.50p (1983 - 10.25p) - on pre-tax profits 6.9% higher.
* Beer sales were down in volume but sales of table wines continued to grow and profits from this source and from soft drinks increased.
* Good uptake expected in trading profits in 1985 and in future years.

Table with 3 columns: Results at a glance, 1984, 1983. Rows include Group Profit before Taxation, Group Profit after Taxation, Available for Ordinary Shareholders, Total Ordinary Dividend, Profit retained in the Company, Earnings per 25p Ordinary Share.

JESSUPS

Main Dealers for Vauxhall-Opel, Bedford and Ford, Vehicle Leasing and Rental

Table with 4 columns: Year to 31st August, 1984, 1983, Increase. Rows include Turnover, Profit before tax, Dividend per share, Earnings per share, Net assets per share.

* Adjusted for 1 for 1 scrip issue in January 1984.

Highlights from the Review of the Chairman, Alan Jessup-

- * A record year in which all activities performed well.
* Maintained position as one of the leading General Motors dealers.
* Ford dealerships continue to benefit from market leadership.
* Leasing growth in fleet size and profit.
* Future viewed with confidence.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from: The Secretary, Jessups plc, London Road, Romford, Essex RM7 9DS

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

CRICKET: ENGLAND ARE HELD UP BY CENTURIES FROM AZHARUDDIN AND SHASTRI

India's slow tempo is hard to justify

From John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent
Calcutta

At their own tempo, rather than in a way to put England under pressure, both Shastri and the new man, Azharuddin, made centuries in the third Test match here yesterday as India's first innings score advanced from 176 for four to 348 for five. Together they added 215, a record for India's fifth wicket in Test cricket, and they were within six minutes of playing right through the day when Azharuddin was out for 110. Even so, with only two days of the match to go, and on a pitch so full of runs, England should be in no danger of defeat.

Azharuddin is the ninth Indian to have made a hundred on his test debut, and in the past something of a jinx has fallen on those who have done so. No fewer than seven of them failed to get another. Included in this list are two of the present Indian selectors, Kripal Singh and Hanuman Singh, the Oxford Blue, Abbas Ali Baig, Surinder Amarnath, brother Mohinder and son of Laloo, and the elder Nawab of Pataudi, though in his case the relevant hundred was not for India but England.

There is no doubting Azharuddin's class. However, he played rather less well the longer he stayed in. So, to a greater extent, did Shastri, whose hundred was his fifth for India and his third in his last four Tests, the other two having been in Bombay against England and in Faisalabad against Pakistan. The slowness of the pitch was of no help to them, but were I an Indian I would have grown very impatient with the way they just plodded along. Presumably Gavaskar was happy for that to be so, though it was hard to see why.

For England, Ellison had another unlucky day. Although the weather was warm and cloudless, the ball was still new enough when play began to swing for a while. Ellison made it do so, always away from the two right-handers and sometimes late enough to beat the bat. Trevor Bailey, who is watching the match, says he would have been disappointed if an England side of his time had allowed India to make even 200 on the first day. To help bowl them out he would have sent first of all among his contemporaries for Alec Bedser. Conditions yesterday were



Leap of faith: Gower (top left) takes evasive action as Azharuddin tries to dispatch Pocock

quite different, once the ball had lost its shine. They became so utterly favourable for batting that England might well have suffered a lot worse than they did. Early on, Cowans's boomer had Azharuddin hurrying once or twice, and on another day Ellison, though he still found his inswinger elusive, would not have gone without. India's batsmen must already have played and missed at Ellison a good 30 times.

Pocock bowled for hours on end, to the "Tayfield field" of two very straight short legs to start with, with two men covering the angles behind them, and never fewer than six men on the leg side. He did a good job. For much of the time he was partnered by Edmonds, bowling mostly to six men on the off side. Once Azharuddin and Shastri had settled in, Edmonds was content to keep them quiet, only a slip and a

shortish extra cover within 35 yards of the bat. Except that he had a deep long leg and seldom gave the ball much air, his bowling had certain old-fashioned characteristics. Gower, at short extra, was his busiest fielder.

India were 249 for four at lunch and 304 for four at tea. Their third hundred took 54 overs. The keenness of England's fielding was reflected in their appearance: seven of them had grass stains on their flannels. Downton is finding the ball difficult to take cleanly, which other wicketkeepers who have been here will understand. The low bounce presents them with a problem. The fact that Cowdrey and Gatting have bowled only four overs between them hardly places them in the category of all-rounders, though Cowdrey, in the second of his, was within a whisker of causing

quarter hours, his second fifty taking four of those. Azharuddin, for his part, had been in for 107 overs when Cowans to his great credit, got a ball to lift from just short of a length. Azharuddin, trying to fend it off, cocked it gently to gully. At 21 he has found a way since Tuesday and 22 respectively. Azharuddin and Shastri are young indeed to have such figures to their names.

INDIA: First innings

A M Gower	110
A M Gower	110
D B Vengalwar	42
D B Vengalwar	42
A M Gower	110
A M Gower	110
R J Shastri	100
R J Shastri	100
Extras (l-b, n-b, w, lb)	24
Total (5 wkts)	348

WEST INDIES: First innings

M Prabhakar	3
M Prabhakar	3
S N Yadav	1
S N Yadav	1
S M Sharma	1
S M Sharma	1
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-28, 2-35, 3-126, 4-127, 5-130	

No time or place for a Test hero

Sydney (Reuters) - Simon O'Donnell, an all-rounder from Victoria, is in Australia's squad for the start of the World Series Cup, but there is no place for Bob Holland, the Test match hero, or Kim Hughes, the former captain. Twelve players have been chosen for the first two limited-over games against West Indies in Melbourne on Sunday and Sri Lanka in Sydney on Tuesday.

Holland, aged 38, the leg-spinner whose 10 wickets were a big factor in Australia's innings victory over West Indies in the fifth Test here on Wednesday, is a victim of the prejudice against slow bowlers in one-day cricket.

Hughes, who was dropped for the fifth Test, remains out of favour despite a dashing, unbeaten 47 for Western Australia against Sri Lanka in Perth on Wednesday.

O'Donnell is picked after a good semi-final performance against New South Wales in Australia's domestic one-day competition last week and an earlier Sheffield Shield century. He once played Australian Rules for St Kilda, the club which the former Test players Keith Miller and Sam Leston also represented. He gave up to concentrate on cricket.

Greg Ritchie, the Queensland batsman who received cheek and eye injuries at Noida, is expected to undergo a fitness test in Melbourne tomorrow. Victoria's Dean Jones stands by.

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Challenge to Kirk

Reg Kirk, chairman of Yorkshire, faces a fight for re-election to the general committee in March when he will be opposed by Geoffrey Needer, a 44-year-old quantity surveyor.

Peter Freiwiler, another Boycott supporter on the general committee, will be opposed in the Craven seat, formerly held by Freddie Trueman, by Anthony Roberts, a Wharfedale farmer and businessman and former captain of the Ganga club.

Five committee members, who are regarded as either moderates or anti-Boycott, have been re-elected unopposed: Raymond Clegg (Bradford), Tony Cadbury (Halifax), Brian Walsh (Leeds), Bryan Stott (Wharfedale) and Phil Sharpe (York). Brian Clegg is standing again for one of the Bradford seats and is challenged

by a Denholme Licensee, Peter Baren, a Boycott supporter.

Hrisbane (Reuters) - Australia took an early wicket in England's second innings in the last half-hour of play yesterday, but the third women's international was heading towards a draw after the third day.

England 275 (1 Southgate 74, J Eddy 47) and 13 for one Australia 326 for nine (sic) (D Grayson 64).

Karachi (Reuters) - Pakistan left here yesterday for a tour of New Zealand, where they will play three Test matches, four one-day internationals and two three-day internationals and two three-day internationals before going on to Australia for the World Championship of Cricket one-day series.

Motor Racing

Palmer: flying doctor

Palmer to drive for Zakspeed

By John Blunsden

Jonathan Palmer has signed for the new Zakspeed Formula One team, based at Noida, about 20 miles from the Nurburgring. Palmer, the 28-year-old doctor whose prowess in a racing car made him British Formula Two champion in 1983, had a miserable debut season in Formula One last year as a member of the RAM team, but outstanding performances in sports car races with a Porsche proved that his talent was undiminished and that, given a competitive car, he could still achieve results.

Palmer has already completed four test programmes with the Zakspeed team, three at the Nurburgring and one at Paul Ricard, in France, where he lapped the full Grand Prix circuit within 2.5 seconds of the works Renault team. He claims that the Zakspeed chassis, designed by the British carbon fibre specialist Paul Brown, has outstanding merit and that development work in the coming weeks will be concentrated mainly on Zakspeed's own turbo-charged engine. Eight examples are being built for the team's two cars, only one of which will be entered in races in 1985. The team are currently experimenting with alternative turbo-units.

Zakspeed, whose name is derived from that of its founder, Rich Zakowski, has long links with Ford in several areas of motor racing, and is currently engaged in a development programme with Ford of America, but the Formula One project is entirely independent, even though the Zakspeed engine is based on a modified Ford cylinder block. So far, no sponsorship arrangements have been determined, but this will not affect the team's commitment to take part in all 16 of this year's grands prix.

They took away his job but they cannot take his memories

There is really nothing in English football quite as much fun as the FA Cup. It is a game that has been brutally stripped of all nonsense; the only way you can win is to beat everyone of your opponents. To love once is to love everything. Such simplicity is immensely satisfying.

It is a game that has been played tomorrow, the big boys all join in, and we can start hoping that Bonnesmouth will beat Manchester United again, and that Burton Albion will manage to show Leicester City a thing or two. When the third round comes, football starts cheering up.

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The West Country mobilized behind the team, of course, and the motorways were awfully with green carnations streaming from the windows of cars that were loaded to the gunwales with bottles. "One Johnny Hore," they sang on the terraces, to honour the team manager, "there's only one Johnny Hore."

There was a buzz right through the West Country then. Hore said when we met up again this week, "And I'm a West Country chap. There was one long line of supporters from Cornwall to the Midlands when we went to Villa Park to see Watford in the semi-final. I'll never forget that day, never. They can never take memories like that away from you."

They can, of course, take your job away from you. That is what they did to Hore, a few months after he had made history for the club. In June they gave him a two-year contract to manage the club and in October they fired him.

People keep telling me that football is a funny game, but I don't think it was meant to be quite as peculiar as that. "I was given the sack at 9.30 in the morning. I didn't leave the ground until 5.30. I loved the job you see and I wanted to savour the last few hours."

That rather sums up the Hore attitude. He is one of those outcasts who is in love not with the glamour of the publicity but with the game itself. He has turned out for Clyft Hovers in the Great Mills Western League as

John Hore recalls Plymouth's FA Cup run last season

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John Hore: directors failed test of character

ATHLETICS

Doubts still linger over Miss Budd

By Pat Butcher

Zola Budd's latest plans, revealed yesterday at a London press conference that she did not attend, indicate her intention to return to Britain for the Women's AAA indoor championships at Coxford in three weeks time, and then to live "in Guildford with friends", on what appears to be a part-time basis, as an attempt "to be treated and accepted as any other British athlete."

The import of the latter comment, part of an 11-point statement, is that Miss Budd must be seen to dissociate herself as much as possible from her connections in South Africa, the country of her birth, which is banned from international athletics competition, because of its apartheid policies.

The irony is that the press statement was read out by Jannie Mombert, a vice-president of the South African Amateur Athletic Union, who brought Miss Budd to her successful race to Zurich last weekend, and subsequently to London two days ago, to discuss her future with British athletics officials, one of whom, Robert Simson, said yesterday: "We are happy with the way things are working out."

The problem over Miss Budd originally arose last April when she was brought to Britain from South Africa by the Daily Mail, whose influence with the Home Office secured her a passport inside 10 days, so that the extremely talented 18-year-old could qualify to run for Britain in the Olympic Games. This caused a furore among anti-apartheid groups, and the exceptional media interest was hardly diminished when Miss Budd was involved in a tripping incident, which put the American favourite, Mary Decker, out of the Olympic 3,000 metres final.

But there were also family pressures, caused by a move to Britain. Miss Budd's parents split up when they all returned to South Africa after the Olympic Games. And Miss Budd - whose distance running potential cannot be over-estimated - was on the verge of competing again in South Africa - which would have precluded her from any competition outside - when Mombert stepped in to dissuade her.

Reports of a trust fund, by which amateur athletes are legally allowed to earn money, administered by Mombert, Graham Bonzeiler, and Miss Budd's coach, Pieter Labuschagne (who was also present yesterday) caused the latest problem, for all three are still members of an internationally proscribed body, the South African AAU.

Mombert was eager to disassociate himself and his colleagues yesterday both from claims that they had set up such a fund and from any suggestion that their motives in championing Miss Budd had anything to do with their involvement, particularly in the case of Mombert, in the pending High Court case for the removal of the IAAF ban on South Africa.

According to the statement, Miss Budd's trust fund is to be administered from London, which should clear that problem. But the fact that Miss Budd is only due to stay in Britain for six weeks before returning to South Africa for three months' ostensible training, her absence from the press conference, continuing the unfortunate tradition forged by the Daily Mail, and the revelation of plans to run indoors in the next month, and in a road race in Phoenix on March 2 (where Wendy Sliis is due to run), which differ from plans announced only last Sunday, still leave some doubt over Miss Budd's intentions.

BASKETBALL

Manchester United take over Warrington Vikings

By Nicholas Harling

Manchester United may win nothing on the football front this season but their name goes straight into a cup final, albeit a basketball final, on Monday, England's most famous club yesterday announced the take-over of the first of its kind in this country, the basketball club previously known both as FSO Cars Warrington and as Warrington Vikings. The club play in the Kellogg's Cup final against King's Cup at the Albert Hall on Monday.

From tomorrow, when they visit Davenport's Birmingham in a first division fixture, the new club will be known as FSO Cars Manchester United, since the British car company, who have paid £50,000 in sponsorship for the last two years, are retaining their interest.

The partnership, and others like it which may follow, should stop the criticism which has prevailed for years in Britain concerning the failure of football clubs to accommodate minority sports within their premises. To have vast stadiums standing idle for up to six days a week has long upset recreation departments throughout the nation. If other sports are catered for successfully within multi-sports complex clubs on the continent, particularly in West Germany and Spain, Madrid and Barcelona are prime examples, local governments have wondered out loud why the same could not happen here.

Indeed, Martin Edwards, Manchester United chairman, who announced the take-over, used Real Madrid as an example of what he hopes to achieve. He went on: "Basketball has a great future from school upwards, and it should be part of that future, by providing a corporate backing for this particular club. It is an up-and-coming sport and we thought the time was ripe to get it going. Warrington were in financial

trouble and approached us to take over. It will be run separately from the football side and we hope to turn their loss into a profit in three years."

United provided an extension for them at Old Trafford, the basketball club will play at the Streteford Leisure Centre, their first game being next Thursday against John Carr Doncaster in the Anglo-Scottish Cup. They have moved out of the Spectrum Arena, previously but inaccessible to those without their own transport in Warrington.

Mr Edwards's presence at the Spectrum Arena for recent games prompted speculation that United were about to get involved in basketball through its friendship with Nigel Rodon, the basketball club chairman. Mr Rodon said: "It is highly appropriate that Manchester United, having led the way in soccer, now lead the way again in British sport and give basketball both credibility and stability."

The take-over is likely to be the first of many similar deals in the foreseeable future even if some, like Warrington, do involve clubs changing their identity. Already Birmingham have been linked with Aston Villa, whose Villa Park ground is a few hundred yards away from the Spectrum Arena, and Dennis Roach, an agent to several footballers, including some of Tottenham Hotspur's, may eventually move within the confines of White Hart Lane.

The current vintury is Manchester's other basketball club, Cottrills Manchester Giants, whose home court at Altrincham is only 5 miles from the Spectrum Arena. The English Basketball Association's stipulation that clubs should not play within five miles of each other, an injunction from Manchester Giants believed to be on its way to the EBUA.

FOOTBALL

Forest ask Clough to stay longer

By Clive White

Brian Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, has been offered the opportunity to agree a fresh long-term contract with the club. Clough, aged 49, celebrates 10 years in charge at the City Ground on Sunday.

The offer follows Clough's recent decision to name Frank Clark, the former Forest full back and the current Orient manager, as the man he would like to eventually succeed him.

Clough's present lucrative contract, already extended by a year, expires in May 1986, but the Forest manager has always vowed to retire at the age of 50.

But Maurice Worth, the Forest chairman, is undeterred. He said: "I feel his has said that, but I don't feel it is too important at the moment, because although team affairs are not my business, it seems clear Brian is still building for the future. Hopefully that means he intends to stay."

"If he does agree to stay on, that would be the best possible New Year present for this club," he added.

And Clough said recently: "I know I've said that when I'd call it a day, but now it's getting so close I'm not so sure any more."

Kevin Wilson yesterday signed yesterday for Ipswich Town for a fee of £150,000 from Derby County. Tony Sealy agreed to join Fulham, a year after he moved on loan from Queen's Park Rangers. Mick McGuire of Barnsley, agreed yesterday to join Oldham on a free transfer.

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Sealy: moved to Fulham

Injury has deprived Leeds of Ritchie, who is replaced by George McCuskey, and their goalkeeper, Harvey, for whom Hughes deputised last week, but a disappointing time over Christmas and the New Year which concluded with two home draws, one against the bottom team, Cardiff City, which they achieved only with a penalty from the evergreen, McGuffee.

Everton's doubts over the fitness of Stevens and the brittle Andy Gray, among others, persist.

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Fry believes there is still time to challenge for title

Everton's focus changes

By Clive White

Seldom can a side have thrived so much on cup involvement, while successfully staging a strenuous League recovery, as Everton did last season. Whether their effort will be just as determined in this season's FA Cup while their thoughts turn to such pressure as the League championships, will discover to a large extent tonight when the defence of their trophy against Leeds United in the televised third round is at Ewood Road.

Last season's involvement with first division survival inspired an effort that grew like a runaway snowball, gathering more force the longer it rolled. It embraced all three domestic competitions, to halt the charge in one would have had to call a stop in all. Eight days after they began their FA Cup campaign they sank to eighteenth position in the League but by the end of the season they were in tenth position, they were FA Cup winners and Milk Cup runners-up.

This season, they seem more in control of their destiny, which they see as the League title, and yet, strangely, more vulnerable. They were leaders in the Milk Cup, the Grimley Town and the loss of Heath from the attack has been a blow to their confidence, previously like a tough viceroy. The recent holiday fixtures, though, saw them finish with a flourish of three consecutive victories, two away from home, to leave them second to Tottenham Hotspur only on goal difference.

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Fry believes there is still time to challenge for title

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Barry Fry, the non-league manager of Maidstone United, has made the Gola League championship his immediate target. Maidstone, who won the league last season currently lie halfway down the table, but Fry believes there is still time to mount a championship challenge.

Fry, who resigned as manager of Boveret on Wednesday in order to take over the best paid job in non-league football, may find encouragement from Maidstone's record last season, when they won the championship despite trailing the leaders and eventual runners-up, Nuneaton Borough, by 15 points as February. Maidstone are 14 points behind the present leaders, Altrincham.

Fry, aged 30, has a difficult act to follow at Maidstone. His predecessor, Bill Williams, who resigned last month in order to take a job outside football in South Africa, He and his wife, Sue, ran an antique shop in Maidstone when they were struggling to hold their place in the league; they finished runners-up in his first full season and champions the next. They have also been non-league football candidates for election to the Canon League for the last two seasons.

"I want to get Maidstone into the League and, with the facilities and potential they have, that's got to be possible," Fry said. "I regard Maidstone as the Manchester United of non-league football and I'd rather be manager here than at virtually any third or fourth division club."

Barnet have been in serious financial trouble this season and recent weeks Fry has had to sell players and members of his backroom staff in order to keep the club alive. A series of bad results continued with defeat at Telford United on Saturday, when Barnet slumped to fifth from 11th, although they ended their bad run on Tuesday by winning away to Walsingham, who were second in the table.

Tom Hill, the Barnet chairman, expressed his disappointment at Fry's decision to leave. "We've had problems at the club but I believe we're now turning the corner," he said. "We're hoping to bring new directors onto the board and I believe our future will then be assured. We shall advertise for a new manager and I can only hope we find as good a club man as Barry Fry."

Fry, who has a contract with Maidstone until the end of the 1986-87 season and plans to move to Kent in the near future, will take charge of his new team tomorrow morning before the league visit to Worcester City.

Fred Stevenson, of Mossley, has become the tenth Northern Premier League manager to be dismissed this season. Stevenson was appointed caretaker manager in October after the departure of Brian Gordon and was given the job on a "permanent" basis before Christmas. He was dismissed, within two weeks, however, and has been replaced by Jimmy O'Connor, a long-serving player.

The directors of Carlisle Athletic are planning to put the Serravallo Ishtar League club into voluntary liquidation because of substantial debts. However, a new company, which would take over the old club's fixtures is likely to be set up.

YACHTING

Lessons of Victory '83 smooth the waters for America's Cup challenge

By David Miller

Some of the healthiest extrovert America's Cup crew of Victory '83 were at the Boat Show yesterday joyfully enjoying a somewhat protracted celebration of events 18 months ago.

exhaustive three-year operation, plus the addition of increased technology, a less personalized management structure, and a crew selection system which will be clear-cut at an early stage of preparation.

The intention is, like the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, to give exclusive, high-priced contracts to a small number of major consumer or industrial companies.

There were those who were muttering, following Admiral Sir Ian Easton's official announcement of the British challenge on behalf of the Royal Thames Yacht Club on Wednesday, that the new campaign was beginning too late and with too little money.

There are four key areas to the new challenge: design, crew, financial management and marketing. It is the last which may, in yachting terms, be the most progressive.

Nautical link renewed

By John Nicholls

One could almost hear the sighs of relief from those who were sponsor for the regatta week was announced at the Earl's Court International Boat Show yesterday.

will be the Admiral's Cup series, of which it is usual as usual by Champagne Mumm.

Magri on the business kick

By Srikanth Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Charlie Magri made his first appearance yesterday at a press conference given by Frank Warren, the bitter rival and promoter of Magri's boys, Mickey Duff and Mike Barrett.

Magri's 32-bout record far surpassed the champion's experience of eight contests. Magri is the winner of a world title chance as seriously as his other two world title contests.

Counties to abandon old territory

By Joyce Whitehead

The five territorial women's tournaments which finished earlier this week end an era. They have been the annual highlights of the hockey season since the game began in 1902.

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English for Melbourne

By Paul Harrison

The English Volleyball Association plan to send men's and women's teams to compete in the Commonwealth championships in Melbourne in August.

wealth championships. They competed in the last Games in Canada, finishing sixteenth out of 25 teams.

RACING: TREBLE CHANCES FOR GRUNDY GLOW AND BOLD ILLUSION AT HAYDOCK PARK

Improving Kevinsfort tops the bill

By Mandarin

Jimmy Fitzgerald, who has bright prospects of winning tomorrow's big race at Sandown Park with Canby Danny, can take today's principle prize at Haydock Park, the Gamekeepers Handicap Chase, with Kevinsfort.

This improving seven-year-old unseated his rider on his seasonal reappearance at Market Rasen but has won two of his four races since, both by decisive margins. In his other two outings, he has had the misfortune to come up against the talented State Case and not surprisingly had to play second fiddle.

Kevinsfort's main rival today, King's Jug, has also shown admirable consistency, winning three off the reel in the closing weeks of 1984.

Both have shown promise over hurdles since, particularly Amadis whose Boxing Day second to Wargame at Wetherby was made to look even better when the third horse, Charlotte's Duncie, won easily at Catterick on Monday.

David Barron does well with the few horses he runs under the National Hunt rules and the Mauby trainer could win both divisions of the novice hurdle at Sedgfield with Amadis and Mamsby Prince, who finished first and third in a bumper race at Perth in September.

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Charlotte's Duncie, himself, again so soon and I will be surprised if Chummy's Boy and Buckminster Boy, the other previous winners in the field, can successfully concede her weight.

That remarkable 16-year-old, Even Melody, whose 32 wins span 10 seasons, will be a popular choice for the Shotton Handicap Chase following his good second to Kevinsfort, at Southwell last month.

Southwell last month. However, preference is for Dr Guiltotine, a course and distance winner, who receives 15lb from Neville Crump's Veteran.

Numerate, who has gained five of his six wins at Sedgfield, can again show his liking for the course by successfully conceding weight all round in the Hamsterley Novices' Chase.

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The northern Gold Cup contender, Canby Danny, winner of Ascot's SGB Chase, is favourite for tomorrow's Sandown feature, the Anthony Mildmay, Peter Cazalet Chase.

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Tuesday's impressive Cheltenham winner, Wing And A Prayer, is likely to make a quick reappearance in the Towford Hurdle at Sandown.

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The Moore family make their mark

The Moore family of Brighton, trainer Charlie Moore, son Gary, and daughter, Candy, made racing history at Lingfield yesterday with a winner each.

Candy Moore, aged 19, set the ball rolling when ending a frustrating three months, without a winner for her father on Implication in the first division of the Horley Novices' Hurdle. Miss Moore had the six-year-old well placed in the straight and they took, rostrum, at the final flight to score by eight lengths. "That's my first winner since Hereford in early October," said Charlie Moore, who was immediately summoned by the stewards who wanted to know why the horse was pulled up at Newbury on New Year's Eve.

Moore said: "I told them that Peter Corrigan, who rode Implication that day, reported my horse was gunging. I fitted Implication with a tongue strap this even and my explanation was accepted."

Gary Moore had his own easier victory on Saunders, 12 lengths clear of Drops O'Brandy in the finish of the World Handicap Chase. It is the first time a brother and sister have had winners at a meeting. Saunders, who gallops his bad feet in the sea at Climping, near his owner-trainer, Tony Clay's Amsted, stable, will be back to Lingfield seeking more wins at the next two meetings.

"I bought him at Ascot Sales six years ago, but he had had problems with his feet, which swelled under pressure. I had the hooves grooved and he's perfectly sound. I have plenty of give in the ground."

Another trainer welcoming a New Year win was Milton Bradley, whose Chestnut stable has been hard hit by a virus. After River Warrity took well selling chase by 15 lengths, Bradley said: "That's my second win, yet I had 15 at this time last year."

The actor Oliver Reid, who recently starred in the film Christopher Columbus, lost his way to Lingfield and failed to see Leith Hill Flyer, in which he has a half share, win the Sevenoaks Novices' Hurdle.

Successful before Christmas on his first run of the season at Fakenham, Leith Hill Flyer won by 12 lengths and now attempts a treble at Southwell next week. His Espoon trainer, Philip Mitchell, said: "Leith Hill Flyer is off the course for two years with back trouble and came back to me in September."

John Francoise, the champion jockey, who rode Leith Hill Flyer, contacted the winning horse's trainer, Winter's previously untraced former Irish gelding Larry-O in the Horley Novices' Hurdle (Division II). Larry-O beat the well backed Taylorstown by two lengths.

Bob Jinks, seven-year-old winner of the Southern Counties Handicap Hurdle, could go to Cheltenham, either for the Coral Golden Handicap Hurdle or the Waterford Crystal Stayers Hurdle.

Lingfield results

1.0 SEVENOAKS NOVICES' CHASE (21.70n) 2m
LEITH HILL FLYER b g by Averol - Barlow
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.1 LEITH HILL FLYER b g by Averol - Barlow
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.2 GOLDEN FLYER b g by Averol - Barlow
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.3 HURLEY NOVICES' HURDLE (Div II) 2.54n
3m
REVEREND B H by Tansley - Caught In
The Act (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.4 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.5 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.6 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.7 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.8 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.9 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.10 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.11 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.12 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.13 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.14 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

1.15 LARRY-O ch g by Laurence O - Penthouse
Feld (D Poole) 11-11-83

HAYDOCK PARK

GOING: good to soft (7.30am inspection)
Total: 1.45, 2.45, 3.15, 3.15, 3.15
1.25 BOLD ILLUSION (2.55n) (15 runners)

1.04-011 CHUMMY'S BOY (D) (A Widdow D Barlow 5-11-10) ... M J Richards 7
2.25-222 NO FLUKE (D) (F Trenchard F Yardley 5-11-10) ... N Thayer
3.01-010 RED RIFLE (D) (A Spruce R Jeffrey 5-11-10) ... J Bragot 7

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HAYDOCK PARK

GOING: good to soft (7.30am inspection

Soviet deserter's family unaware of his return

By Richard Dowden

A week after two Soviet Army deserters went home from Britain in November...

A letter from Andrei Rykov, the cousin of Igor Rykov...

The letter was written on November 19 and posted in Gultevichi...

Andrei's letter asked Igor to buy jeans and said he dreamed that Igor returned home...

Lord Bethell, the Conservative MEP who sponsored Igor Rykov...

"We were promised that that they would be allowed to rejoin their families."

Exodus to Israel of Ethiopia's lost tribe

Continued from page 1

Occasionally clapping his hands as volunteers sang Israeli songs for the children...

He was seeing such things for the first time. Asked if it frightened him...

Although Falashas have been spirited out of Ethiopia to Israel in dribs and drabs...

The Israeli authorities were deliberately refusing to reveal many details of the airlift...

A spokesman for the Soviet Embassy said last night that he could not confirm or deny that the assurance had been given...

In December Izvestia quoted the two men as saying their stay in Britain was a "nightmare"

Lord Bethell had been instructed by British Intelligence to bring them to Britain where they had been drugged and blackmailed...

Shares tumble on fears of higher interest rates

Continued from page 1

The level of unemployment fell by 3,180 to 3,219,406 in December...

The slight fall in the unemployment total in December occurred because of a net reduction of 16,515 in unemployed school leavers...

Adult unemployment, seasonally adjusted, which is the best guide to underlying trends...

One of the milk cartons put on sale in Chicago yesterday in an effort by police to find some of the children who disappear each year...



One of the milk cartons put on sale in Chicago yesterday in an effort by police to find some of the children who disappear each year...

NF row 'could close poly'

Continued from page 1

But both camps - the National Front and the SWP students - are, if anything, more firmly entrenched than ever...

The authorities have made difficulties about Christmas for some years, but there have been no hard and fast rules until now...

Saudis ban expatriate Christmas festivities

By Paul Valley

Thousands of Britons in the eastern province of Saudi Arabia suffered a dismal Christmas...

Christmas cards, Christmas trees and even decorative lights in private homes were banned...

On Christmas Eve members of the Muzawa, the religious police, patrolled hotel restaurants...

"There were certainly no crackers or hats," one hotelier in Dhahran said last night...

The result of a letter from the general supervisor of the Islamic Regulation Authority, Abdullah Ben Muhammad al-Doubekly...

The letter said: "This country does not allow celebrating Christmas and New Year's Eve or any other feasts that might contravene Islamic regulations or make propaganda."

This was the consequence of the "wise policy derived from Holy Koran and Sunna", the letter said...

But the restrictions affected more than 6,000 Britons, Europeans and United States citizens working in the eastern province...

"The authorities have made difficulties about Christmas for some years, but there have been no hard and fast rules until now..."

But the BBC believes that such a solution could still land it in financial difficulties...

BBC sources believe that the corporation can continue operating at its present level on a £60 licence fee...

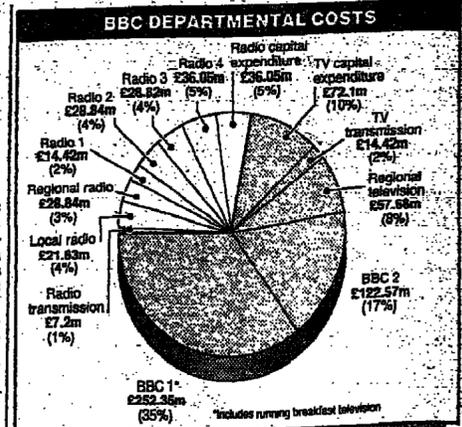


Table titled 'HOW THE COLOUR TV LICENCE IS SPENT (£)'. Columns: Television, Radio, Local radio, Transmission & distribution, Capital expenditure, Collection & anti-evasion. Rows: Existing licence, Inflation, Improvements, Proposed fee.

£60 licence 'would kill BBC growth plan'

Continued from page 1

The corporation predicts that local radio including the 10 new stations, would cost £2.18 of each proposed licence fee of £65...

With other minimal cuts, the moves would be unlikely to reduce the BBC's licence fee requirements below £60...

Of the rest of the extra money, most is planned to be spent in television, replacing worn-out equipment...

BBC sources believe that the corporation can continue operating at its present level on a £60 licence fee...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

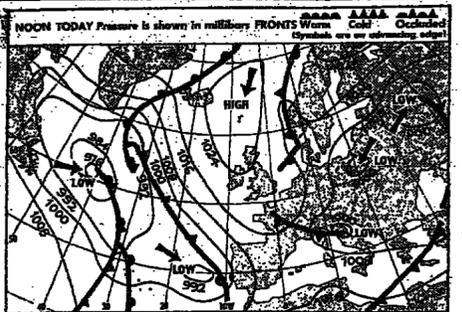
Today's events: New exhibition: Geology Serves the Nation: 150 years of British Geology...

General: 84th Model Engineer Exhibition: Wembley Conference Centre, Wembley, 10 to 17 (ends Jan 6)...

Food prices: After the Christmas and New Year festivities many shoppers will be looking for cheaper and simpler meals this weekend...

Roads: The North: A63: Roadworks in connection with South Docks road construction in Hesse...

Weather forecast: A N airstream will affect all areas with a trough of low pressure crossing E districts...



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,626. A grid with numbers and some letters filled in.

Anniversaries: Births: James Usher, Archbishop of Armagh, chronologist, who dated the world's creation at 4004 BC...

Sales: Harrods: January sale begins today until Jan 26: Mon to Sat 9 to 6, Wed 9 to 7...

Ferry services: All ferry services to Calais and Dieppe have been cancelled because of the French seamen's strike...

Top films: The top box-office films in London: 1 (1) G.I. Joe: The Movie...

High tides: Table showing tide times for various locations like London Bridge, Aberdeen, Belfast, etc.

Solution of Puzzle No 16,625. A crossword puzzle grid with the solution words filled in.

Our address: Information for inclusion in The Times Information Service should be sent to: The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Snow reports: Depth (cm), Conditions, Off, Runs to, Weather (5 pm). Locations include Arisa, Ordelwald, Igla, etc.

London: Yesterday: Temperatures at major stations: C, F. Locations: Bedford, Birmingham, Bristol, etc.

Highest and lowest: Yesterday's highest and lowest figures of 50°C (122°F) at Buxton, Derbyshire...

Times world-wide: Noon in London is 7 am in New York; 4 am in Sao Francisco; 2 pm in Tokyo; 11 pm in Canberra; 2 pm in Johannesburg; 4 pm in United Arab Emirates; 3 pm in Kenya; 1 pm in Nigeria; 3 pm in Moscow; 8 pm in Hong Kong.